

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you think the House minority bloc will eventually have the numbers to impeach Gov. Benigno R. Fitial?

Let your voice be heard!
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to cast your vote.

INSIDE

MAHARLIKA



To provide aid to flooding victims in the Philippines, Tan Siu Lin Foundation recently donated boxes of grocery items to the LBC donation drive which officially concluded yesterday.

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BUSINESS



The number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits was unchanged last week at a seasonally adjusted 374,000, suggesting slow improvement in the job market.

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LIFE & STYLE



Clint Eastwood, the Hollywood filmmaker who knows all about sticking to the script, turned in what seemed like an oddly unscripted endorsement of Republican Mitt Romney Wednesday night.

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'We are strong believers in God'



Fitial

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

After the CNMI's nine delegate votes for presidential candidate Mitt Romney was announced at the Republican National Convention in Tampa, Florida, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial introduced himself and said, "We are the newest U.S. territory to join the American political family in 1978. We are proud to be here. We are strong believers in God. We believe in America, and voting Romney today, or tonight, we believe in Governor Mitt Romney. Along with that, all our delegate votes, the next president of the United States, Governor Mitt Romney." See BELIEVERS on Page 4

» Fitial impeachment, CNMI delegates to Republican convention get national media attention

Japan-based NTT Docomo to buy MCV

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Japan-based NTT Docomo, the parent company of Docomo Pacific Inc., has agreed to buy the parent firm of Marianas Cable Vision Broadband in the CNMI and Guam for an undisclosed amount, a move that could help change the CNMI's telecommunications landscape.

Docomo Pacific-Saipan general manager James Nelson and MCV director of CNMI operations Bryan Pitt, in separate

See DOCOMO on Page 4

700 signatures against transition extension

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Some 700 foreign workers have so far signed a two-pronged petition—opposing an extension of the CNMI-only transitional worker program period beyond Dec. 31, 2014 and a push for a grant of improved status to long-term foreign workers in the CNMI.

At the same time, worker groups are inviting the community to take part in tonight's "prayer for all workers" in time for the Labor Day weekend. This will be held at 7pm near the TSL Plaza in Garapan.

Rabby Syed, president of the United Workers Movement-NMI, said they will continue to gather signatures until Sept. 15, 2012 or beyond, as he and other worker group leaders have been expecting thousands of signatures during their one-month vigil that started on Aug. 15.

See SIGNATURES on Page 4

» Groups to hold prayer for workers tonight



LET'S MOVE MARIANAS!

Youths give a surprise dance number during the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Commonwealth Health Center yesterday morning. The "Let's Move! Marianas" campaign by the CNMI Division of Public Health is part of First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move!" initiative to help solve the epidemic of childhood obesity within a generation.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Preliminary injunction issued against \$190M power purchase deal

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman yesterday issued a preliminary injunction that prohibits Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, acting attorney general

Viola Alepuyo, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and Saipan Development LLC from pursuing the \$190-million power purchase agreement.

Wiseman said based on the consent of Fitial, Alepuyo, and CUC, he issues this preliminary injunction on the same terms

as the temporary restraining order that he earlier issued.

Preliminary injunction refers to a court order issued in the early stages of a lawsuit which enjoins or prohibits a party or parties from performing an act in order to preserve the status quo until a pending

ruling or outcome.

Wiseman said pursuant to his verbal order, Fitial, Alepuyo, CUC, and Saipan Development LLC are further enjoined from pursuing or performing on any agreements submitted as exhibit in the

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Justices rule 3-percent retirement bonus law unconstitutional. PAGE 2
Hungry man breaks into store for food then yields to DPS. PAGE 4

Local

Justices rule 3-percent retirement bonus law unconstitutional

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court has found as unconstitutional a law that granted lawmakers, judges, and all other elected government officials a 3-percent retirement bonus.

In its ruling issued on Thursday, the high court reversed the

decision issued by Superior Court presiding judge Robert C. Naraja that granted former representative Martin B. Ada's motion for summary judgment on the 3-percent retirement bonus issue.

The Supreme Court ruled that the 3-percent bonus contained in Public Law 6-17 violates article II, section 15 of the NMI Constitution.

"We further hold that the bonus is not void *ab initio* and is void prospectively only," said the high court's opinion penned by Justice Pro Tem F. Philip Carbullido and concurred by

Justices Pro Tem Robert J. Torres and Alberto C. Lamorena III.

Void *ab initio* means "null from the beginning, as from the first moment when a contract is entered into."

The high court's decision means that NMI Retirement Fund members who previously received the 3 percent bonus are allowed to retain it.

However, persons who have not yet received the bonus, including Ada, are barred from receiving the bonus in the future.

The justices also determined that Ada's claim for double dipping benefits for the years 2000-2002 is not barred by the applicable statute of limitations.

The justices said because the trial court has not calculated the specific amount of benefits to which Ada is entitled, the case is remanded to the Superior Court with instructions to calculate the amount due and owing to the former lawmaker in accordance

with their opinion and to enter judgment accordingly.

According to court documents, Ada began to work as an employee of the Public School System in March 1978. He held various public employment positions up to September 1997, during which he made contributions to the Fund.

In September 1997, Ada retired and began receiving retirement benefits from the Fund.

In January 2000, he left retirement to become an elected member of the Legislature. He then resumed making contributions to the Fund. That same month, his retirement benefits were discontinued.

When Ada ran for office in 1999, a 3-percent retirement bonus was in place for all elected officials pursuant to Public Law 6-41. The 3-percent bonus was repealed in 2003 pursuant to P.L. 13-60.

In January 2008, Ada retired a second time after having lost his re-election bid.

The following month, the Fund administrator wrote Ada a letter outlining his benefits. The benefits did not take into account Ada's time spent as an elected legislator nor any part of the 3-percent bonus.

The Fund asked the Superior Court to review several provisions of the Retirement Act. Ada filed a cross-motion for summary judgment.

On Aug. 26, 2010, Naraja found as constitutional the law on 3-percent retirement bonus. He ruled that Ada is entitled to such bonus for the years 2000

through 2003.

Naraja also concluded that Ada was entitled to double-dipping benefits for the years 2000

See **JUSTICES** on Page 4

Latest visit a 'success' for USS *Greeneville*

CLARISSA V. DAVID

USS *Greeneville* (SSN 772) Commander Martin Muckian, right, presents a plaque of appreciation to Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Douglas Brennan as executive director Richard Pierce and Triple J Enterprises founder Bob Jones look on during the Chamber-hosted reception at Tony Roma's in Garapan Wednesday night. A Los Angeles class submarine, USS *Greeneville* arrived on Saipan Monday, exactly 11 years since it ran aground on Aug. 27, 2001. The vessel, with its 150 officers and service members, left Saipan yesterday.

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

The captain of the USS *Greeneville* (SSN 772) said there was no "undue concern" on their end for their latest trip to Saipan, which happens to take place exactly 11 years since the Los Angeles class submarine ran aground.

The incident on Aug. 27, 2001 was an "unfortunate occurrence," according to Commander Martin Muckian. "They found that there were some navigation practices that were not up to Navy standards and contributed to the grounding."

Before running aground, USS *Greeneville* made international news when it struck in February 2001 the Japanese fishery training vessel *Ehime Maru* off the waters of Hawaii, causing the deaths of the nine crew members and four high school students.

In January 2002, it collided with USS *Ogden* while transferring personnel in Oman, resulting in a gaping hole in one of *Ogden's* fuel tanks and spilling large amounts of fuel to the open seas.

But several years after those incidents, USS *Greeneville* "has nothing but success," according to Muckian, who leads the group of 150 officers and service members for the submarine named after the Tennessee town—home of Andrew Johnson, the 17th President of the

nation—and arrived without any mishaps Monday morning.

"Most of it has been on classified operations, but she's done very, very well," he said, including winning competitions for the best submarine in their squadron.

The 40-year-old Muckian disclosed in an interview Wednesday that the entire crew of USS *Greeneville*, which was in the Philippines then out at sea for three weeks before heading to Saipan, said they were very excited to come back and finally make that long overdue arrival on Saipan.

Muckian, who was named commander only in February, said that this is his second visit to the island. "I've been to Saipan once before in 2005 on a different submarine, USS *Louisville*," he said, adding that he was not on board *Greeneville* when the 2001 incident happened.

According to Muckian, Saipan is considered a "great place to be" and is "highly regarded" for its island hospitality, beautiful diving spots, and pristine beaches, among others. "There are port visits that people like to go to and there are port visits that they don't want to go to and Saipan is definitely one of those that's high on the list of places to visit."

Their stay on Saipan, Muckian said, has his crew "very relaxed" after spending weeks and months at sea.

The commander thanked the community for its "world-renowned" *hafa adai* spirit and "legendary" hospitality.

"We as sailors away from home and away from our families, really appreciate the hospitality and warm welcome you give us," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "We hope that we returned that in kind and we hope to return many, many times in the future."

As a token of appreciation, Muckian presented ball caps and plaques to officials of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce which hosted a reception for the USS *Greeneville* crew at Tony Roma's in Garapan.

Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman, chair of the Chamber's Armed Forces Committee, welcomed USS *Greeneville* and handed Muckian a softbound book detailing all Naval ships, including the USS *Greeneville*, which have visited the CNMI.

Wiseman noted that the USS *Greeneville's* arrival coincided in one of the heaviest rains that the island experienced this year.

"I issued a court order giving you at least two days without rain, and it's working. Sometimes, the powers that control are not in my jurisdiction, so it's a hit and miss. But it looks like it might be working this time," he quipped, drawing laughter from his audience.

The USS *Greeneville* left Saipan yesterday.

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Inos says lawmakers should support impeachment allegations

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos reiterated his call on lawmakers to support their allegations against Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who had said that the allegations against him "do not rise to the level of impeachment proceedings." But just the same, the House minority bloc's pre-filed resolution to impeach Fitial has caught national and international media attention.

"I keep saying if they're going to make allegations of that

magnitude, it's got to be something that supportable because going through it just for the exercise is not going to do anybody any good," Inos said in an interview Thursday.

Seven members of the House minority bloc led by Rep. Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) pre-filed on Monday a resolution initiating impeachment proceedings against Fitial for multiple acts of corruption, neglect of duty and felony.

Inos said this is "a decision they (lawmakers) have to make."

A few days before House minority bloc members pre-filed the impeachment resolution, Inos gave an unsolicited advice: "Don't act in haste, do your homework, and proceed with caution."

Meanwhile, an online petition launched by Ed Propst continues to draw supporters, with close to 600 signatures as of Thursday night.

"The embarrassment has to end. The island has been under this toxic leadership for too long. Saipan has not transformed into anything better

since this corrupt group of wanna-be politicians took office. The corruption is so obvious and some individuals need to go to jail. And it starts at the top," one of the latest petitioners said.

Another one said, "I signed because I am sick of living a life under a corrupted leader who given our people nothing but empty promises and bitter times."

The online petition is avail-

able at <http://www.change.org/petitions/the-cnmi-legislature-impeach-cnmi-governor-benigno-fitial>.

Fitial is only the second governor in CNMI history being attempted to be impeached, but this is the first time that an impeachment resolution was actually pre-filed.

The first attempt to impeach a governor was in 1992 during the term of now deceased gov-

ernor Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero but back then, the issue died even before a resolution could be pre-filed.

Among the 16 articles of impeachment listed by the minority bloc were those in connection with Fitial's secretive signing of a no-bid, 25-year power purchase agreement and the use of a federal inmate taken out of jail temporarily to give the governor a massage in January 2010.

10 complete medical billing course at NMTI

» CHC absorbs new graduates

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Ten students who underwent extensive training at Northern Marianas Trade Institute's medical billing course successfully completed the program and eight are now working as interns at the public hospital.

The medical billing course is just one of the many courses offered at the trade institute and it ran from April through June this year. At the end of the course, all participants took a test for national certification under the National Healthcare Association.

Saipan Tribune learned that on June 26, official notification was received informing NMTI that all 10 students had passed the test and received national certification, a certification rarely held in the CNMI.

Since completing the course, eight of the 10 participants have been brought on as interns at the Commonwealth Health Center. These individuals are being eyed to fill the needs of the public hospital which is in desperate need of medical billing and coding staff to beef up the hospital's revenue and collections unit.

NMTI president Tony Pellegrino said "it is rewarding to see that we can help the course participants make a positive impact in their lives."

He said the skills attained by these participants will go a long way to help CHC or any other place of employment that these individuals end up in.

Pellegrino complimented the Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs and the local Department of Commerce, for making the training possible in the CNMI.

It was in November 2011 when the institute applied to be a sub-grantee for a grant which is supported by federal funds under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs, CNMI Economic and Labor Enhancement Program through a sub-grant award from the CNMI Department of Commerce. The NMTI planned to utilize these funds to provide short-term skill specific train-

ings targeting unemployed U.S. eligible workers.

The NMTI received official notification of award on Dec. 12, 2011 and immediately began working to implement the first set of courses.

Utilizing the grant funds, NMTI was able to offer eight short-term courses, which include barbering, medical billing/coding, agriculture, sales and marketing, entrepreneurship, life guard, culinary arts,

and hotel/hospitality.

The NMTI recognized that providing the necessary skills for course participants was only half the battle, as these courses will only make a difference in the lives of these course participants if they are able to utilize these newly attained skills to secure employment.

To address the issue, NMTI contracted a staffing firm to provide placement assistance for all course participants.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The newly certified coders and billers of the Northern Marianas Trade Institute gather for a group photo with the institution's officials and guests during their recent commencement rites.

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Hungry man breaks into store for food then yields to DPS

A hungry man burglarized a store at the Northern Marianas College, gobbled some food, then surrendered to the police on Thursday early morning.

Joshua Torres Cruz, 21, was arrested for burglary, theft, and criminal mischief.

Detective Jeffrey I. Norita recommended a \$10,000 cash bail in his declaration of probable cause. But Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman imposed only \$100 cash bail.

At yesterday's hearing, associate judge Joseph N. Camacho was moved by Cruz's acceptance of responsibility

and released him on \$5,000 unsecured bond.

Camacho appointed the Office of Public Defender as counsel for the defendant.

Arraignment will be on Sept. 17 at 9am.

Detective Norita stated in his report that, on Thursday at 1:27am, a police officer was dispatched to NMC where a man reportedly wished to surrender to police for the crime that he had just committed.

Norita said when the officer arrived at NMC's security office, he met two

security guards who made the 911 call and a man later identified as Cruz.

Cruz explained that he wanted to surrender to police for "robbing" the Galaxy Snack Bar.

Cruz then led the officer to Galaxy Snack Bar, where the officer verified the defendant's confession as accurate.

The defendant explained to the officer how he managed to break into the store. He stated that the reason why he burglarized the establishment was because he was hungry.

Cruz admitted he ate some hamburger buns and a cup of chicken kelaguen.

After eating, Cruz proceeded to NMC's security office where he asked

the two security guards to call the police because he felt bad for what he had done.

The store conducted an inventory and revealed that only food items were indeed taken. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

PRELIMINARY

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lawsuit, until further court's order.

On Aug. 21, 2012, Wiseman granted Rep. Janet U. Maratita's (Ind-Saipan) request for TRO.

Fitial and Alepuyo on Thursday filed a written statement on non-opposition to issuance of a preliminary injunction on the same terms as the TRO currently in place.

At the hearing on the motion for preliminary injunction, CUC, through counsel, joined in Fitial's and Alepuyo's position.

Attorney Ramon K. Quichocho, counsel for Maratita, filed on Thursday an amended complaint to include the Senate and Rep. Ray Anthony N. Yumul as Maratita's co-plaintiffs.

Acting AG Alepuyo substituted Buckingham as one of the defendants in the lawsuit because the former AG had already resigned.

In the amended complaint, Quichocho attached a copy of the power purchase agreement with the signature of a representative for Saipan Development LLC manager Donald R. Kurz. Fitial signed the agreement for CUC along with then AG Buckingham on Aug. 3, 2012.

The plaintiffs asked the court to declare that the 25-year power purchase agreement is "unconstitutional, illegal, unconscionable, and unjust, and therefore, cancelled."

BELIEVERS

From Page 1

Video footage of that moment also shows press secretary Angel Demapan right beside Fitial.

Behind them were the governor's candidate for CNMI delegate to Congress, Dr. Ignacia "Acha" Demapan and businessmen Joe Lifofoi and Herman Sablan, among others.

The CNMI delegation was seated in the front of the convention center with delegations from the other U.S. territories, reportedly to show the GOP's "diversity."

The crowd applauded the CNMI delegation to the Republican event, as well as Fitial's statement.

But some 8,000 miles away, some CNMI lawmakers and community members have been calling for Fitial's impeachment for multiples acts of corruption, neglect of duty, and felony.

The House minority bloc's Aug. 27 pre-filing of a resolution impeaching Fitial and the events of the days before and after that, including a secretive \$190.8-million power purchase agreement for 25 years, have also been drawing national media coverage.

"I see it as an embarrassment to the people of the CNMI. I say that because of the recent events that popped up, the purchase agreement," said Rep. Frank

Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), one of the seven House members who co-authored the impeachment resolution.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) separately said yesterday that during the next House session either on Tuesday or Wednesday, he will formally create a special committee on impeachment and its members will also be announced on the floor.

"I say it again, this is a serious matter so this has to be reviewed by a special committee. I can't say more, and will let this committee do its job," said Cabrera.

Florida-based human rights activist and former CNMI teacher Wendy Doromal, in her blog, commented on Fitial's remarks at the Republican National Convention.

"I do not know why in the world the CNMI delegation would select that phrase [We are strong believers in God] as their defining statement. Perhaps the CNMI delegation wanted to convince themselves and others that the corrupt governor and his followers are not really self-serving, corrupt, greedy opportunists, but are really good Christians? Strange even for Fitial," Doromal said.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said the CNMI is in crisis concerning healthcare, utilities, and pension system yet the governor chose to travel off-island for three weeks not only for official but also for personal or

political reason.

Back in March, Fitial had this message to Manglona and other lawmakers who criticized him over his "stupid people" remark, "Tell them to come back to Jesus."

Fitial left Saipan for Hawaii, American Samoa, Tampa in Florida, and is on his way to Boise, Idaho for the CNMI community's annual Labor Day baseball tournament there, wherein he is expected to campaign for his Republican candidates in the CNMI's Nov. 6 midterm elections.

Cecilia Lifofoi, wife of UMDA's Joe Lifofoi, and Claire Blanco, wife of Diego Blanco of GPPC, were also interviewed by the media in Florida.

"Cecilia Lifofoi, from the Northern Mariana Islands, lives 8,000 miles away from Tampa and had to cross an ocean to serve as an alternate delegate. She says she and her husband, who is a delegate, spent 18 hours in the air traveling to the convention," Raycom News Network wrote.

RNN also wrote, "Claire Blanco, sporting a 'Romney/Ryan 2012' hat and jacket full of buttons, also is an alternate delegate from the Northern Mariana Islands."

Delegates from the U.S. territories such as the CNMI can help nominate a candidate in the convention but their people cannot vote for a presidential candidate in the national general election in November.

"We therefore hold that the 3 percent bonus is unconstitutional under section 15," the justices said.

On void issue, the justices said the Fund and its members acted in good faith when they respectively distributed and received funds pursuant to an unconstitutional statute.

"There is no indication from the record that either the Fund or the Fund members believed the 3 percent bonus to be unconstitutional when the bonus were paid, or that bad faith was otherwise involved," the justices said.

The justices said stripping Fund members of their previously received bonuses at this late date would place those members in the untenable position of paying back funds which they received in good faith and upon which they may have reasonably relied.

"Moreover, recouping the bonuses from Fund members who in all likelihood have spent the money, relied on this income for their livelihood,

were not complicit in the pay out of the funds, and relied in good faith on the validity of the enacted statute, would be unreasonable and unfair," they said.

On the double-dipping issue, the justices said there are no rules or regulations that govern how Fund members may claim double-dipping benefits.

The justices said were no rules or regulations governed the payment, and where Ada was not informed orally or in writing that upon reemployment with the CNMI he had six years to file a claim, the Fund's failure to voluntarily pay Ada double-dipping benefits when he was rehired in 2000 did not clearly repudiate his right to the benefits.

"Such a repudiation did not occur until, at the earliest, Ada received the February 2008 letter stating that he was entitled to retirement benefits but omitting any reference to the double-dipping benefits," the justices added.

SIGNATURES

From Page 1

"We have so far gathered 700 signatures and we're hoping to get thousands of signatures. There's still time to sign the petition," Syed told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Rene Reyes, founding president of the Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs Ltd. or Mahal, said while MAHAL supports the quest for improved status for all, he said most of their members do not oppose extending the transition period.

Reyes said this is because most MAHAL members support a CNMI Senate resolution seeking changes to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) bill seeking a grant of CNMI-only resident status to four groups of people.

The CNMI Senate's proposed change is to impose certain conditions on the eligibility of foreign immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, as well as to include a provision seeking to grant improved immigration status to foreign workers who have been in the CNMI for at least 10 years.

In particular, senators want Sablan's HR 1466 amended to ensure that only those lawfully admitted aliens residing in the CNMI for at least five years prior to May 8, 2008 will be conferred CNMI-only resident status, and any other condition as may be required by Congress.

"Based on MAHAL's survey of its members, as of Aug. 20, most of us support extending the transition period. This is mostly because they believe in the CNMI Senate's resolution," Reyes said in a phone interview.

The same Senate resolution adopted on Aug. 1 supports a five-year extension of the transitional period of the CW program beyond Dec. 31, 2014 "so that the CNMI will have an adequate number of workers available for legitimate businesses."

Senate Joint Resolution 17-21, introduced by Senate President Paul

Manglona (Ind-Rota), was adopted by the Senate by a vote of 8-0.

But just the same, the United Workers Movement-NMI and other worker groups do not want extension of the CW program as stated in the petition letter. Among other things, they want the federal government to make a decision once and for all on a permanent immigration status for legal long-term foreign workers.

The petition letter and signatures are addressed to U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda Solis, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, among other federal and local officials.

In the two-page letter, the petitioners said the CNMI-only transitional worker program has not provided the stability and secure future that the legal long-term foreign workers of the CNMI had envisioned, and has continued many of the same problems that they have experienced under the former CNMI program.

"The worst part of the CNMI-only transitional worker program is that the CW-1 status is strictly a temporary worker status and none of our years working on U.S. soil under this program will count for upgraded U.S. permanent residency status or a pathway to citizenship," the petitioners wrote.

They said rather than an extension of this program, they support that the estimated 16,000 legal, long-term foreign workers of the CNMI "be granted permanent residency status and a direct pathway to citizenship."

"We support this status for all of the legal foreign workers who have worked and resided in the CNMI for five or more years – not just those with U.S. citizen children or spouses, but for all of the legal, long-term foreign workers," the workers said.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Delegate Sablan, and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce support extending the transition period, saying the CNMI needs more time to train resident workforce to take over the positions filled by foreign workers.

DOCOMO

From Page 1

interviews yesterday, confirmed the signing of an "intent to purchase agreement" which still requires the approval of federal and local regulatory agencies such as the Federal Communications Commission.

Pitt said that agreement was signed on Wednesday.

"You have here a convergence of two telecommunications companies. Hopefully the regulatory agencies such as FCC and the Public Utilities Commission will approve this agreement. Only then we could talk about different plans and packages or services," Pitt told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at his office, adding that they don't expect changes until the agreement gets clearance from regulatory agencies.

MCV has 35 employees on Saipan, Pitt said.

Nelson, for his part, said while waiting for FCC and PUC's approvals, it will be business as usual at Docomo Pacific and MCV.

He said they're hoping the deal would get the green light by the end of the year.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), chair of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation's Public Utilities and Infrastructure Committee, said the benefits of this purchase deal, if approved, remain to be seen but he's

hoping that MCV customers will receive better services.

"I hope Docomo's purchase will improve MCV's services to its customers and lower the cost of these services. They're very costly," said Dela Cruz.

Docomo and MCV's signing of an intent to purchase agreement comes at a time when GTA TeleGuam's application to operate in the CNMI remains pending, giving competition to the islands' telecom giant IT&E. GTA submitted its initial application to PUC in March 2011.

Dela Cruz, a member of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, hopes that PUC can soon begin to review not only the Docomo-MCV purchase agreement but also GTA TeleGuam Holdings' application so it can begin operations in the CNMI.

"Competition is always good because would always have a choice with the kind of services available. We are a U.S. soil yet some of the services are three, four times more expensive than those in the U.S., and you also think we're in the 21st century but if you look at the services available here, you'd think we're behind," he added.

Six years ago, NTT Docomo bought SaipanCell, GuamCell, and Hafa Tel.

MCV, meanwhile, was bought by New York-based investment firm Seaport Capital from United Micronesia Development Association or UMDA in 2005.

JUSTICES

From Page 2

through 2007.

The Fund Board of Trustees appealed.

The board, through legal counsel Carolyn M. Kern, argued that the 3 percent bonus is unconstitutional, citing Section 15 of Article II of the NMI Constitution that provides that a member of the Legislature "may not debate on or vote on" a bill in which the member has a financial or personal interest.

In the Supreme Court's decision, the justices said it is reasonable to conclude that when the Legislature enacted the 3 percent bonus, the lawmakers' personal interest in receiving higher retirement benefits for themselves and for a select group of other government officials conflicted with the interest of the general public in maintaining a solvent Fund.

Two cops have bench warrant, found in contempt

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REPORTER

Two police officers, including who was just recently hired back by the Department of Public Safety, have two bench warrants for small claims and were found on Thursday in contempt of court for ignoring court orders.

Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo, however, imposed no punishment on police officers David Rabauliman and Kui F. Rogopes and ordered their immediate release.

Govendo ordered Rabauliman and Rogopes to continue their payment of their debts to attorney Michael White, who is counsel for Javili General Partnership and Hi-Mart.

Govendo told the police officers that if they will not pay again, there will be serious repercussions.

The two officers were taken to court after the CNMI Judiciary's court marshal called a police sergeant at the Department of Public Safety and informed him about the bench

warrant. The sergeant then accompanied the two officers to the court marshal's office where they were held until the hearing.

With respect to Rabauliman, White said the officer owes Javili General Partnership \$251.

White said on Jan. 6, 2011, associate judge Perry B. Inos issued a bench warrant for the arrest of Rabauliman for not appearing in court on Dec. 21, 2010.

On May 3, 2010, presiding judge Robert C. Naraja ordered Rabauliman to pay White \$25 biweekly until full payment is made.

White said the officer did not make any payment and basically ignored the court's order.

Rabauliman asked the judge if he could pay \$25 or \$50 biweekly.

Govendo told Rabauliman that he does not want him to forget again his obligation to pay.

"You're a police officer. Jail is probably not the best place for you," Govendo told Rabauliman, who told the court that he sent many criminals to jail.

In Rogopes' case, White said that on July 30, 2012, associ-

ate judge Joseph N. Camacho issued a bench warrant for the defendant for not appearing in court on July 23, 2012 in connection with the small claim filed by Hi-Mart.

The amount of items that the officer allegedly owed the store was \$397 starting in 2011.

On March 22, 2012, Camacho ordered Rogopes to pay White \$50 bi-weekly until full satisfaction of his debt.

Asked by Govendo why he

is not making payments, Rogopes mentioned that he has a 6-month baby.

Rogopes promised to pay when he gets his salary. He stated that he just started to work back at DPS a couple of weeks ago.

Govendo asked why the officer was not making payment or even partial payment.

"Do you think you're above the law?" Govendo said.

In July 2006, Rogopes, who was then already a police offi-

cer, pleaded guilty to obstructing justice.

According to the plea agreement, on Aug. 6, 2005 through Aug. 7, 2005, Rogopes failed to report to police officer Glenn Rabago the report of Daniel Santos as to his encounter and hitting of Jim Bebebe on Aug. 6, 2005.

The court subsequently sentenced Rogopes to one year of supervised probation.

In August 2007, the court hav-

ing found that Rogopes had met all of the conditions of his sentence, discharged him and vacated the judgment of conviction.

Rogopes resigned from DPS, then moved to the Department of Corrections. He was among six former police officers who were recently hired back by DPS.

DPS also recently hired a former Commonwealth Ports Authority police officer who has no criminal conviction but has several prior traffic violation cases.

Navy to conduct training at FDM and WA-517

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla today, Sept. 1, and from Sept. 3 to 8, 6am-11pm; and at W-517 from Sept. 4 to 7, 8am-5pm.

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training

requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. **(PR)**

Zoning Office set Sept. 4 deadlines for signs, banners

The CNMI Zoning Office is advising the public that the zoning law contains requirements regarding signs, and banners for business establishments as well as community, personal, and political events and therefore encourages all owners to apply for and obtain the appropriate permits.

Such requirements include the specific timelines for temporary usage, allowable distance from the public right-of-way, intersection clearance for safe vehicular/ pedestrian view, or the permanent removal of any damaged signs.

Due to the growing number

of violations, the Zoning Office is announcing a deadline of Sept. 4, 2010 for owners to bring their business, personal, or political signs and banners into compliance with the law. The office further advises that failure to do so may result in the imposition of up to \$1,000 per day up until the day that such violation is corrected.

The Zoning Office encourages the public and business community to visit their website at www.zoning.gov.mp or office on the 22nd Floor of Joeten Dandan building to learn more about the requirements for signs and banners. **(PR)**

MVA highlights NMI culture at Domannaka Festival



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Carolinian cultural dancers representing the Northern Mariana Islands participated in the 14th Annual Domannaka Matsuri in Nagoya, Japan on Aug. 24-26, 2012. Over 20,000 dancers from throughout Japan and abroad performed at various venues through the city as part of the 3-day celebration, one of Japan's largest dance festivals.

Indigenous culture of the Northern Mariana Islands was highlighted by the Marianas Visitors Authority this month at the largest dance festival in the Chubu area of Japan, a primary tourism market of this beach resort destination.

As in years past, the MVA and other sponsors funded the participation of Carolinian dancers in the Nippon Domannaka festival held on Aug. 24-26, 2012.

The festival is held mid-summer in Nagoya, located in central Japan. Dancers from all over Japan and abroad gather in Aichi prefecture to perform local dances and music.

The 14th annual celebration of Domatsuri, as it's commonly called, featured over 200 dance groups comprised of about 20,000 performers, mostly from Japan. An estimated 1.9-million viewers watched what has be-

come one of the largest dance festivals in Japan.

"The Carolinian dance performance has been an award-winning favorite at Domatsuri before, and we're pleased to continue to support this unique opportunity to showcase indigenous culture in promoting the Northern Marianas," said MVA Marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "In last year's survey of visitors, many stated they wanted more opportunities to experi-

ence Chamorro and Carolinian culture, so the festival continues to be an excellent avenue to capitalize on that interest."

The participation of the Northern Marianas delegation was also supported by the Mayor of Saipan Office and Pacific Development, Inc.

Through June of this fiscal year, the Northern Marianas has received 109,091 visitors from Japan, about 37 percent of total visitors arrivals. **(MVA)**



PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

From left, Saipan Veterans Affairs Clinic Coordinator Ruth Coleman, Dr. Edgar Tudor, Veterans Affairs Pacific Island Health Care System director James Hastings, and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan do the Pledge of Allegiance during the Veterans Appreciation and Outreach event held at the MH II Bldg in Marina Heights Business Park last Aug. 23.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Apple vs. Samsung: Infringing by design

After finding Samsung liable for more than \$1 billion in damages for infringing Apple's iPhone and iPad patents, members of a federal jury told reporters that they hoped to deter companies from copying one another instead of developing their own designs and features. That's a laudable goal, and the public would surely benefit from more choice and differentiation among products. The challenge is in distinguishing between the sorts of innovations that should receive patent protection and the ones that shouldn't.

We don't mean to second-guess the jurors or defend Samsung, which was found to have deliberately imitated Apple's iPhone designs and some of its functions. If companies were able to wait for their rivals to come up with successful devices, then rush out copycat versions with confusingly similar features, there would be less money spent on R&D and more on marketing.

Nevertheless, it's worth remembering that Apple made its name building successful, even iconic products based on ideas that other companies pioneered. The iPhone, for example, was a significantly better version of the smartphones Nokia introduced more than a decade earlier. Innovation is by its nature an iterative process, and good patent policy creates an incentive to innovate more. Bad policy just makes it easier for patent holders to extract royalties from anyone venturing within reach of their claims.

The risk is especially great in the area of patents on design, such as the ones that covered the look and feel of Apple's iPhones. There's a fine line between designs that are purely decorative (which, oddly enough, are the ones eligible for patents) and those that serve a function (which aren't). For example, do rounded corners on a phone simply help set it apart, or do they make the device slip more easily in and out of a pocket?

One safeguard against overly broad or unjustified patents is to provide the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office the resources needed to give applications enough scrutiny. Congress took an important step in that direction with the patent-reform law it passed last year. But the courts have played a critical role in defining what is patentable, and the big judgment in Apple's favor is likely to invite more claims that stretch the boundaries of reasonableness. If Apple's win slows the wonderfully frenetic pace of product development in mobile devices and leads companies to battle in courts instead of the marketplace, consumers will be the ultimate losers.

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Ecuador's strange bedfellows

When somebody, someday, opens a hall of fame dedicated to great moments in international diplomacy, the competition for space will be fierce. I'm sure there will be an exhibit on Vlad Tepes, the 15th-century Romanian prince who, when a visiting delegation of Turkish diplomats refused to take off their hats (only in the presence of the sultan, they said) had his men nail the hats to their heads. Then there's Soviet foreign minister Vyacheslav Molotov, who stayed in the White House during secret World War II negotiations with Franklin Roosevelt. White House servants who unpacked his suitcase reported to the president that it was stuffed with bread, sausage and a pistol that Molotov kept under his pillow at night.

But my favorite guy of this century is Ecuadorean Foreign Minister Ricardo Patino, who earlier this month announced that his country was granting political asylum to WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange. Assange was facing extradition from Great Britain to Sweden, where he has been accused of sexual assault by two of his former supporters, but he's now safely inside Ecuador's embassy in London.

Assange "could be the victim of political persecution because of his decisive defense of the freedom of expression and the freedom of the press," said Patino, managing to keep a totally straight face during a performance that will be studied for decades to come by diplomats and improv comedians.

Leave aside, for the moment, the fact that Ecuador judging the performance of anybody else's legal system is a bit like the Octomom offering classes on abstinence. "Corruption, inefficiency, and political influence have plagued the Ecuadorean judiciary for many years," declared Human Rights Watch in its latest report on the country.

Instead, I'd like to suggest a question for diplomats in those totalitarian hellholes of Sweden and Great Britain to address to Patino and his boss, Ecuadorean president Rafael Correa: If you guys think freedom of the press is so important, why don't you practice a little bit of it at home?

Under Correa's erratic left-wing rule, Ecuador has become a serious contender for a gold medal in press-bashing at the next Authoritarian Olympics. His government has shut down 17 opposition news media this year, including eight in a two-week-long temper tantrum around the end of July.

When Correa isn't closing broadcast outlets and newspapers, he's

By GLENN GARVIN

The Miami Herald

Glenn Garvin is a columnist for the Miami Herald.



bullying them into bankruptcy. Most notoriously, he filed a criminal libel suit against El Universo, Ecuador's largest newspaper, after the paper's coverage of a 2010 police mutiny over wages angered him. (No need to sue radio or TV stations for their stories: During the mutiny, Correa declared a national state of emergency and forced all the nation's broadcasters to carry only the signal of the government's official TV station.)

Correa won the suit after the first four judges were dismissed and a temporary magistrate took over. After just 33 hours on the case, the judge, evidently channeling the legal mind of Oliver Wendell Holmes and the typing speed of Clark Kent, issued a 156-page ruling that awarded Correa \$42 million and sentenced several of the newspaper's executives to three years in prison. An independent forensic analysis of the magistrate's computer showed that his decision had actually been written by Correa's attorney, a fact confirmed by one of the judges earlier booted from the case; but the Ecuadorean judiciary has the intellectual courage not to let facts get in the way of its verdicts.

The libel suit against El Universo, just one of many filed against opposition news media by Correa and his government flunkies, was ultimately dismissed when the president concluded he had thrown a sufficient scare into the paper. (Indeed he had—one of El Universo's directors fled to Panama, which granted him political asylum.)

But some of the dogs Correa unleashes on the press are less easily recalled. He routinely appears on state-owned TV waving photos of reporters and columnists he dislikes, cursing them as "corrupt" or "savage beasts" or, in one case, "a horrible fat woman," and urging his supporters: "React!" They do. The Ecuadorean press freedom group Fundamedios reported 151 attacks on journalists during 2010 alone. That's freedom of the press in Ecuador, Mr. Assange: the freedom to be beaten, bullied and bankrupted. Good luck with your new pal—you'll need it.

Stop the dolphin slaughter—stay away from marine-mammal parks

Dolphins have rich social lives, brains that are as complex as our own and pod-specific cultural practices that are passed down from generation to generation. Some scientists argue that dolphins should be classified as “nonhuman persons” and that their rights should be protected. The resident dolphins of Toshima, Japan—about 100 miles south of Tokyo—are considered official citizens of the small island and are fully protected while in the island’s waters.

But elsewhere dolphins are in danger. Every year in Japan, thousands of these intelligent, self-aware animals are killed in violent hunts known as oikomi or “drive fisheries.” Others are ripped from their ocean homes to be put on display in aquariums and marine theme parks or used in “swim-with” programs. These industries are inextricably linked. If you don’t support the slaughter of dolphins, then don’t pay to see them perform in dolphin shows.

Sept. 1 marks the official start of one of the most notorious dolphin hunts—the annual slaughter in Taiji, Japan, that was documented in the Oscar-winning film “The Cove.” Video footage of past hunts in this Japanese fishing village shows dolphins thrashing in their own blood for many agonizing minutes after being speared or having their throats cut. By the end of the slaughter, the entire cove is red with blood.

While most dolphins captured in Taiji end up as meat in Japanese

supermarkets—despite the fact that dolphin flesh is so dangerously contaminated with mercury that some Taiji officials have likened it to “toxic waste”—every year, about two dozen live dolphins are sold to aquariums, performing-dolphin shows and swim-with programs across the globe. It’s these lucrative sales that keep the dolphin slaughter going.

A dead dolphin brings in only a few hundred dollars. But a single live dolphin can fetch \$150,000 or more.

According to the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, dolphins captured during Japan’s drive fisheries have ended up in aquariums all over the world. Even countries that no longer allow the importation of dolphins caught during the gruesome slaughter may be displaying animals purchased before the ban or moved through other countries to disguise their origin.

Dolphins suffer immensely in captivity. Eight former trainers at Marineland in Niagara Falls, Ontario, recently spoke out to the Toronto Star about the substandard conditions at that facility. Among other abuses, the trainers claim that five dolphins had their skin fall off in chunks after they spent months swimming in water so green that they could barely be seen in it. Photos of the dolphins show them with their eyes squeezed shut against the filthy water. According to the trainers, some animals have gone blind at Marineland.

In the open sea, dolphins live in large, intricate social groups,

By PAULA MOORE

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

Paula Moore is a senior writer with the PETA Foundation.



swim together in family pods and can travel up to 100 miles a day. In captivity, their world is measured in gallons instead of fathoms. Dolphins communicate with each other through whistles and body language. In tanks, their vocalizations become a garble of meaningless reverberations. Most aquariums keep antacids on hand to treat the animals’ stress-related ulcers.

No animal deserves to be torn from his or her rightful home, locked up in a tank or cage and forced to perform tricks just for our amusement. But the plight of a captive dolphin swimming in endless circles in a concrete tank is especially heartbreaking. Please stand up to this cruel industry. Before you buy a ticket, remember that patronizing marine-mammal parks and swim-with programs helps to support Japan’s bloody dolphin hunts—and condemns intelligent, social beings to a lifetime of misery.

GOP foreign policy shows it’s easy to talk tough

I’ve just returned from a gorgeous Maine vacation in time to follow the hoopla of the presidential conventions (from the sublime to the ridiculous?). I’ll be writing on Mitt Romney’s foreign-policy potential—and President Obama’s performance—as the conventions progress.

But having read the GOP’s foreign-policy platform, with its slashing critique of the president, I can already say this: A Romney foreign policy would likely wind up looking much like Obama’s. Despite a call for another “American century” in which we possess the “strongest military and strongest economy,” a President Romney would soon confront the realities of today’s world.

For starters, a hefty part of the GOP’s foreign-policy platform, and its call for global leadership, focuses on boosting the size and weaponry of the military. Indeed, Romney wants to jack up defense spending even while slashing taxes. That dream will soon fade if he reaches the White House. The numbers simply will not add up.

The biggest threat to the defense budget comes from possible across-the-board defense cuts that will be triggered if the two parties can’t agree on how to slash the deficit. The onus is on Republicans, who voted for the automatic cuts and have refused to consider a compromise with Democrats that could avoid them.

Even if a bipartisan miracle occurs, and a compromise is agreed to, the economy won’t sustain the kind of defense budget Republicans dream of. President Romney would be forced to make the same calculations as did Obama: how to protect U.S. security and sustain America’s global leadership in an era of budgetary restraint.

There are hints that some of the platform’s authors recognize the problem. The document ignores Iraq, and hardly mentions Afghanistan (except to take a swipe at Obama’s plan to withdraw the last of 30,000 “surge troops” before the November elections). But last week, Romney’s choice for vice president, Rep. Paul Ryan, said Obama’s 2014 deadline to draw down most

U.S. troops was a “good, reasonable timeline.”

In other words, some Republicans conclude, as Obama did, that we can’t indefinitely maintain a large fighting force in foreign countries.

That same collision with reality is likely to temper other GOP foreign-policy dreams.

On fighting terrorism, the platform bizarrely chides Obama for dropping the phrase global war on terror and attacks his “weak” response to international terrorism. His decision to green-light the operation that killed Osama bin Laden barely elicits a snide comment. Yet Romney would no doubt find himself following the same antiterrorist policy as Obama’s—using drones and special forces—because so few good options exist.

And then there’s Iran, and the effort to halt Tehran’s suspected nuclear enrichment program. The platform denounces Obama’s “failed engagement policy” with Iran, leaving out any mention of the draconian international sanctions imposed on Tehran under U.S. pressure.

Despite his bellicose rhetoric about military options, a President Romney would soon hear from Pentagon brass that the costs of a military strike on Iran’s enrichment sites would be high, and might not even stop Iran’s nuclear program. He’d also hear that if Israel attacks Tehran on its own (encouraged by Republican leaders), this would further inflame an unstable region, while practically guaranteeing Iran would go for a bomb.

In other words, Romney would face the same roster of bad choices that confront Obama. He’d learn that the threat of an Islamist takeover of nuclear-armed Pakistan is far more dangerous than the uncertain likelihood of an Iranian nuclear breakout. (Pakistan is hardly mentioned in the Republican platform, except for the bromide that we should “expect” the Pakistan government to sever connections with insurgents. Good luck!)

Romney would also learn that there are no good options when it comes to the Syrian revolt against President Bashar al-Assad. (Indeed, while denouncing Obama for not doing more, his top

By TRUDY RUBIN

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer.



foreign-policy aides have said in Tampa that Romney isn’t ready to support calls for establishing a no-fly zone inside Syria.)

And as for Israel—for which the Republican platform pledges “unequivocal support”—a Romney White House would also be faced with the tragic realities that Obama confronted.

Obama, too, offered unequivocal support to Israel. He envisioned two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, side by side, with secure borders—as the Republican platform specifies. But here’s what the platform ignores: Any prospect of a two-state solution is being foreclosed by Jewish settlements that divide the occupied West Bank into cantons. Even if the Mideast stabilizes, and new Arab leaders seek peace, the two-state option will no longer exist.

Republicans castigated Obama for trying (unsuccessfully) to persuade Israel that its settlement policy was self-destructive. But a Romney presidency would have to deal with the repercussions of a policy that locks Israelis and Palestinians into one state.

The bottom line: It’s easy to talk tough, and channel the ghost of Ronald Reagan, when writing a foreign-policy platform. But once in the White House, Republicans would find that—in these straitened times—it’s much tougher to project American power, and takes more careful calculation.

One can debate how best to project U.S. leadership in such times. My guess is that Romney would find himself following Obama’s lead far more than he anticipates, or would like.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unrealized potential of personal property

There are several initiatives being considered on Article XII that would change certain provisions such as the 25 percent blood quantum to “even a little degree” to be considered an NMD. Also being considered is extending the 55-year limit on lease to 99 years. These proposed changes will not fix the problems with Article XII. So long as the restrictions or conditions remain, private landowners do not have complete and absolute ownership of their land. What is good about owning a land when you have no control over it? Can you use it for example as collateral for a loan to build your house, or send your children to school to advance themselves? What about for medical emergencies? Shouldn’t landowners have the ability to sell their land if they choose for the optimum amount of financial gain to be able to attend to personal needs and emergencies?

The answer is that so long there are restrictions or conditions on land ownerships; private landowners will not be able to realize the full potential of their personal property. By the way, which is more valuable? Land under Article XII or education? Education is more valuable, because you can advance yourself and in the process can

buy things including land. You can have land but if you do not have the means (education) you will be limited as to what you can do. We have moved from being self-sustaining farmers and fishermen to a cash economy. We are no longer as bound by the land as our ancestors. There are many people with land but are cash poor and can’t do anything to advance themselves. There is talk about land and culture. Is culture really tied to land? Culture is what we practice whether we have land or not. Culture is changing over time. There are many examples of changes in our culture. The reality is that we are changing and will continue to change. We are not the same as our ancestors. We are different from just 25 years ago. We are even different from 10 years ago.

Those that favor Article XII talk about saving land for future generations. What is the meaning of this? Are we saying that private landowners are the incapable of managing their land? What if we want to sell our land now for something we really need? Do we favor that because of future generations? Shouldn’t it be left to the individual landowners to decide about their future family members

regarding their land? Close examination of Article XII is actually working against the very people that it was supposed to protect. One thing that the initiative fails to address is adoption. Under Article XII, the adopted child under 18 years old takes the blood quantum of the adopting parents no matter that the adopted child is not of Chamorro or Carolinian blood. In fact, if the adopting parents are 100 percent NMD, then the adopted child is 100 percent. Yet, a natural born child to a parent where one is a non-NMD is only 50 percent NMD. How do you figure this out? Without any reservation, the correct answer is to abolish Article XII so that private landowners can regain absolute land ownership. This way, landowner can decide what is in the best interest for them and their families as to what to do with their land without restrictions. Abolishing Article XII will force anyone to sell his or her land. Instead, it will give complete control and ownership of your land. Think about it.






Efrain F. Camacho

Navy Hill

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Partly cloudy. Isolated showers. Southwest winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers. Southwest winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼79°	▲85 ° ▼80°	▲84° ▼79°	▲84° ▼79°	▲84° ▼80°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲88 ▼77
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼76
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲88 ▼77
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲88 ▼77
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲88 ▼77

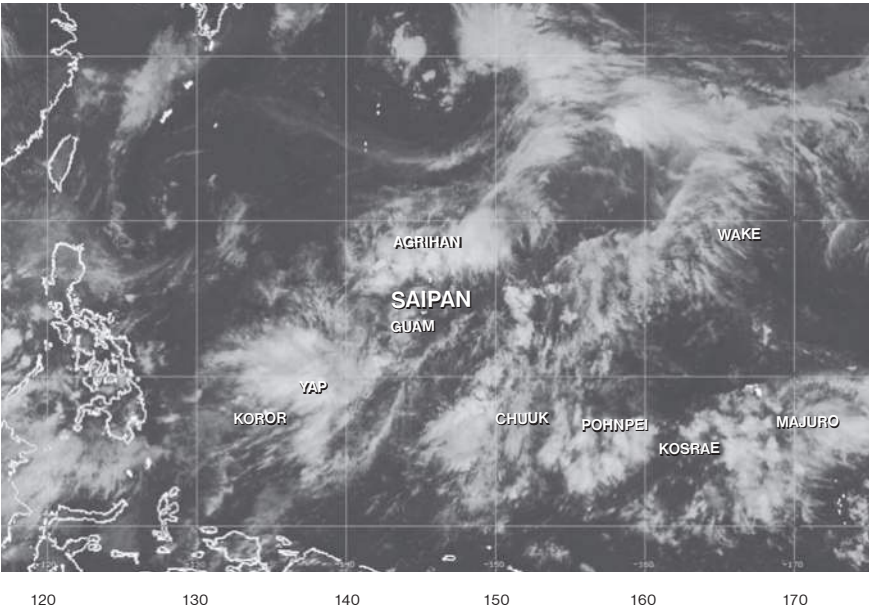
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲60 ▼53
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼70
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼81
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼74
London	Cloudy	▲71 ▼57
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲88 ▼68
Manila	Thundershowers	▲84 ▼78
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲61 ▼40
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲89 ▼77
New York	Sunny	▲93 ▼71
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼75
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲70 ▼54
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲84 ▼73
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲79 ▼65
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲79 ▼49
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲60 ▼52
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼70
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲89 ▼75
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲95 ▼76

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
3:03 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet	
8:35 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	
3:18 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet	
9:27 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough meanders northeastward from a weak circulation centered northwest of Koror at 14N131E through a second circulation centered northwest of Saipan at 18N141E to end northeast of Minami Tori Shima beyond 25N at 156E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found east of the trough and circulations from Yap to near Guam to Minami Tori Shima within 250 mils of a line from 7N136E to 20N146E to 25N152E. Another surface trough extends northeastward from 4N150E to 19N159E. Surface convergence near this feature is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from southwest of Chuuk to west of Wake Island within 200 miles of a line from 3N148E to 13N154E to 20N163E. Upper-level divergence is producing scattered showers northwest of Wake Island, north of a line from 20N160E to 18N165E. A trade-wind disturbance is creating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across Pohnpei.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:28 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:28 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:27 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:26 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:45PM	6:18 AM
Sunday	7:25PM	7:10 AM
Monday	8:05PM	8:00 AM
Tuesday	8:45PM	8:50 AM
Wednesday	9:27PM	9:39 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 14, 2012

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5	UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5	UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily	UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily	DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
0Z606/120	2:20am	8:50pm	1 via ICN	0Z119/606	9:30am	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z606/120	2:50am	8:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	0Z119/606	9:30am	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1	0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM	UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT	0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM	0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN	UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN	UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN	0Z704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN	0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM	0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana				ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES			
CATHOLIC			
Mt. Carmel Cathedral Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro Parish office hours: Monday-Saturday 8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm			
Korean Center Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm			
Kristo Rai Parish Sunday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm) Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated) Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm. Telephone no. 285-0273			
Santa Soledad Mission Parish Monday: 6pm Tuesday: 6pm Wednesday: 6pm Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass) Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass) Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am, Saturday: 4-6pm Telephone no. 256-4568			
Saint Jude Parish Monday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 7am Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm Office is close every Thursday and Saturday Telephone no. 288-0007			
San Antonio Parish Monday-Friday 6pm Saturday: 6pm Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children) Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm Close on Sunday and Monday			
San Francisco de Borja-Rota Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro Wednesday:6pm English Thursday: 6am Chamorro Friday: 6am English Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog Sunday: anticipated mass			
San Isidro-Rota Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am Monday-Friday: 7pm Saturday: 5am and 7pm			
San Jose (Oleai) Parish Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm Thursday: day off Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm Telephone no. 234-6991			
San Roque Parish Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English Monday: 6pm English Tuesday: 6pm English Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil Thursday: 6pm English Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays) Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass Parish office hours: daily except Thursday			
and Sundays: 4:30-6pm Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143			
San Vicente Parish Monday-Friday: 6pm, Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month) Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm Parish office hours: daily 9-11am Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131			
Santa Remedios Sunday: 8am Monday: 6pm (1 st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm) Tuesday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm			
PROTESTANT			
Amen Church Sunday : 10am, 1pm, 5pm Wednesday : 7pm Friday Prayer : 9pm Bible Study : 4pm (Tue) Music Practice : 5pm (Sat) Korean class: 3:30pm (Thu) Visitation : 10am(Fri, Sat) Outreach : 8am (First Sat) Tel. No. 285-2121, 256-2221 Email : oseyo@daum.net			
Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm			
Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm Telephone no. 234-6026/27			
Chinese Christian Church of Saipan Worship Services: Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm Telephone no. 235-8540			
Church 360 Suite 103 of Marianas Business Plaza (1st floor of former Nauru Building). Contact www.church360saipan.org, info@church360saipan.org, or call 888-2116 Celebration Service: Sunday at 10:15am Prayer Fellowship: Wednesday at 6:00pm			
Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm As Perdido Road Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950 Tel. No. (670) 235-8590 Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org			
Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 10:00am Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road, Call 285-6081 for directions			
Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service) GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week) Telephone no. 322-5680			
Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan			
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog) Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)			
Immanuel United Methodist Church Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral) Worship Service: 9:00am Children's Sunday School: 9:00am Choir Practice: 8:00am Singspiration: 8:30am Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158			
Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog) 9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage) (Korean Congregation) Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm Wednesday evening service: 8pm Daily morning prayer: 5am			
Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm, Wednesday: 7:30-9pm			
Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9:20am Sunday Adult: 11am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm			
Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)			
Living Hope Church of the Nazarene Isa Drive, I-Denni Hill across from Ponderosa Heights Bible Studies for all ages: Sunday at 10:00 am Worship: Sunday at 11:00 am Pastor Dave Bucher, 256-1142			
Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm			
Missions Connection Ministry Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm			
Northern Marianas Christian Church Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd. Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sis Housing FS#1 Contact Nick for more info: 287-1661			
Marianas Bible Fellowship Center Sunday School: 9-9:30am Divine Worship: 9:30-11am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm			
Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch) Sunday worship 8:30am Sunday evening 7:00pm			
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel Telephone: 789-7566			
Saipan Christian Church Sunday: 7:30am-10am Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)			
Saipan Church of Christ Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 10-11am Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm Thursday Bible Study: 7pm			
Saipan Community Church (Sunday Services) Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm			
Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan (Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm			
First Baptist Church Koblerville Sunday services: Sunday school 9:00am Morning worship 10:00am Evening service 6:00pm Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm			
Chinese services Sunday morning 10:00am Sunday evening 7:00pm			
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. Telephone No: 285-4661/2			
Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi			
Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism			
Upper Room International Ministries Sunday 5:30am-6:30am Morning prayer 7am-9am English service 7am-9am Sunday school 10am-12noon English service, Koblerville Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan			
Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship:10:30am Sunday PM Worship:7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S			
Victorious Christian Church (Formerly God's Victorious Army) Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246			

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 1, 1999

Teno: ‘Ingram was not drunk’
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio is still mum on the fate of embattled Public Safety Commissioner Charles Ingram even after meeting with him the other day to get first hand account of his alleged run-in with the law. He told reporters yesterday he would await result of an on-going investigation on the incident before taking any administrative action against his Cabinet official. But the governor defended Ingram from allegations that he was drunk when he almost struck down a pedestrian along Beach Road in Chalan Laulau, noting the police chief doesn’t drink alcohol.

NMC saved \$1 million in personnel expenditures
The Northern Marianas College has saved more than \$1.06 million in personnel expenses during Fiscal 999 as a result of its reorganization, according to a top college official. Ramon Villagomez, chairman of the NMC Board of Regents, said the college has been saving a great deal since it started observing austerity at the institution. He clarified an earlier press report that NMC saved only \$23,000 from its austerity measures. “I believe that NMC did its best to reduce its personnel costs which helped the CNMI government stay within its budget forecast in FY 1999,” Villagomez said in a letter to Senate and House leaders.

Sept. 1, 2000

House approves amendment to retirement laws
The House of Representatives yesterday passed two bills amending existing retirement laws, one seeking transfer of service credits between married persons employed in the government, and the other giving option to elected officials to receive either their pension or salary. Under HB 12-109 sponsored by Rep. Dino M. Jones, chair of the House Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations, the NMI Retirement Fund will be mandated to allow the transfer of up to five years service credits between a married couple who are members of the agency. All such transfers shall be calculated to represent the actual service value to the recipient, regardless of the amount of time transferred, according to the measure.

MVA may scrap some marketing plans
Tourism officials would have to eliminate some of its planned marketing campaigns after it was only given close to \$6 million in budget for Fiscal Year 2001. The Marianas Visitors Authority wanted an \$8 million appropriation for next fiscal year but the House of Representatives approved only a \$5.9 million budget for the tourism agency. “We want to maintain our promotion based on the current spending level and even possibly include Europe,” said MVA Managing Director Perry John Tenorio. While expressing confidence that MVA will still be able to do its job with the meager budget, Mr. Tenorio said increasing the promotional campaign in Taiwan and Hong Kong to widen the CNMI’s market base would need a additional money.

Sept. 1, 2003

Tinian airport contractor sues CPA
Barely a month after the inauguration of the expanded West Tinian International Airport, an executive of the project’s private contractor has sued the Commonwealth Ports Authority in a move that could be a prelude to a bigger lawsuit. Although the lawsuit filed by William H. Richardson of Telesource CNMI, Inc. was merely about alleged violation of the CNMI Open Government Meetings and Records Act (OGA), the executive accused the CPA of conspiring with a firm to force his company to underbid by up to \$10 million in the \$24-million runway project. Richardson, the runway project manager, asked the Superior Court to enjoin the CPA from violating the OGA, so he could be allowed to inspect and copy project documents with the CPA. He also asked the court to impose penalties against the ports authority.

‘Non-US citizens also required to register with Selective Service’
Registering with the Selective Service System is not only a mandatory requirement for young men between 18 to 26 years old who are U.S. citizens but also apply to foreign residents who fall within the same age group. Failure to register would disqualify them from getting U.S. citizenship later. Even those with disabilities are not exempted from the requirement, so long as they fall within the required age range. These were stressed by Selective Service officials deputy Region III director Deborah N. Bielanski, state director Joseph Reyes and Army Reserve Major Ronald Mandell during a news briefing Friday.

Maharlika

TSL Foundation donates groceries to LBC for flood victims

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

To provide aid to flooding victims in the Philippines, Tan Siu Lin Foundation recently donated boxes of grocery items to the LBC donation drive which officially concluded yesterday.

The charitable arm of the Tan Holdings group of companies purchased \$1,500 worth of groceries from Dickerson & Quinn and Cosmos Distributing Co.

Items included General Mills cereals such as Cocoa Puffs, Golden Grahams, Trix, and Cinnamon Toast Crunch; Hormel Compleats; Campbell's Chicken Gravy; Mini Chips Ahoy; Spam; Prego Sauce; Bombay Select Apple Juice; Beech-Nut Baby Food; and Trident Splash Peppermint Swirl.

On behalf of the TSL Foundation, Cosmos operations manager Ladyvir Canape and D&Q general manager Max Kretzers presented the donation to LBC Mabuhay Saipan manager Valentino Gatchalian and United Filipino Organization president Bong Malasarte at their Warehouse last Aug. 30.

"We recommended the cereals because they're healthy and they're ready-to-eat food," explained Canape. "When they receive the cereals, they can eat them right away. They really come in handy for those who are staying in relocation areas since they have limited access to a kitchen."

Cosmos and D&Q both gave the grocery items at a discounted rate to allow TSL Foundation



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Executives of Cosmos Distributing Co. and Dickerson & Quinn present the grocery items purchased by the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for the LBC donation drive to help the flooding victims in the Philippines, during a brief ceremony at their warehouse in Lower Base last Thursday. From left to right, CTSI-Cosmos warehouse staffer Pedro Alonso, LBC Mabuhay Saipan manager Val Gatchalian, Cosmos operations manager Ladyvir Canape, D&Q general manager Max Kretzers, United Filipino Organization president Bong Malasarte, and public relations officer James Galvez.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

CTSI-Cosmos warehouse staffer Pedro Alonso, right, hands United Filipino Organization public relations officer James Galvez the grocery items donated by Tan Siu Lin Foundation to the LBC donation drive, to load in the LBC van last Aug. 30. Assisting them were D&Q warehouse staffer Nick Nays, warehouse manager Joe Lizama, and UFO president Bong Malasarte.

to purchase and donate more to the victims.

"People need help, and we need to help them," said Kretzers, adding that they are always willing to assist the foundation in its efforts to give relief to those who need it.

LBC Mabuhay Saipan, which has branches in Susupe

and Garapan, agreed to receive in-kind donations until Aug. 31 and ship them for free to the Philippine Red Cross to help the flood-stricken residents in the northern Philippines.

While the donation drive had been successful, most of the items that LBC collected for the initiative were used clothing.

Thursday's donation of non-perishable items was the first of its kind, according to Gatchalian.

On Aug. 24, another Tan Holdings affiliate, Kanoa Resort Saipan, donated over a thousand unused white shirts to the donation drive.

"We thank the TSL Foundation for acting on our appeal for food items to the flooding victims. We appreciate your support to our donation drive and rest assured that all donations will be handed over to the Philippine Red Cross," Gatchalian told *Saipan Tribune*.

He disclosed that as of Thursday, LBC has received 20 boxes worth of clothing and other donated items, excluding the groceries donated by the foundation.

"By Sept. 5, we hope to load all donations to our container and have them shipped out. Red Cross will receive them anytime between Oct. 5 and 15," added Gatchalian.

Malasarte of UFO, which has supported LBC's donation drive and also conducted its own fundraiser for the Philippine victims, called for volunteers to help the cargo forwarding company to sort donated items, particularly clothing, today at the LBC Susupe location.

"We want to say thank you to all those who generously gave their donations. This time, we encourage anyone who's willing to help us in this final task before we get these items shipped out to Red Cross for distribution," he said.

To volunteer or for more information, call 234-9013.

UFO readies for election this November

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The United Filipino Organization is preparing for its annual election of officers in November.

Bong Malasarte, president of the network of 30 Filipino groups in the Commonwealth, stressed the importance of the upcoming election, saying that this is the opportunity for their membership to select individuals who would lead the organization in

fulfilling its mission.

"It will be up to the new set of leaders to carry on the projects and activities in the community that the UFO is known for," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

While the election will be held in November, Malasarte pointed out that the elected officers will serve in their new capacity beginning 2013.



Malasarte

Malasarte said he is ready to step down his post after a challenging yet productive year serving as president.

Malasarte, who is also president of MDX Amateur Radio Club, was elected along with other 2012 officers in February 2011.

During his term, Malasarte led UFO in conducting its signature activities for the community, in-

cluding their participation in the annual Mt. Tapochao trek every Good Friday, Pistang Pinoy or Filipino Fiesta, Philippine Independence Day celebration, involvement in the Fourth of July festivities, and the Inter-Organizational Basketball League.

His leadership also introduced the first Pusong Pinoy event last February. Malasarte's last activity for his term would be the Paskong Pinoy event this December.

Chief Justice Sereno releases her SALN: P18 million

By CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno Thursday night released her statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) for 2011, waiving conditions set by Supreme Court resolutions.

The SALN filed last April 26 showed Sereno's net worth amounted to P17,985,375.51.

Her properties amounted to P10,481,500 and these included three house and lots in Filinvest

East (with a current market value of P6 million), Cavite (P1.375 million) and Davao (P1.8 million) as well as memorial lots in Cavite (P60,000) and a lot in Filinvest East (P2.1 million).

Sereno also listed three vehicles—a 2005 Toyota Altis, a 1997 Toyota Corolla and a second-hand 1993 Mitsubishi Lancer. Her cash in the bank amounted to P1,185,602.60



Sereno

and receivables P3,537,130.25.

Total assets declared by Sereno amounted to P19,227,578.85 as against her liabilities of P1,242,203.34.

Her liabilities included credit card billings (P125,511.10), payables (P116,692.24) and a P1-million loan from the Bank of the Philippine Islands.

The SALN included that of her husband Mario Jose Sereno

with investments of P1,203,400 and stocks of P1,644,946.

In her statement, Sereno said her assets "include the savings left from the legal fees paid by the government to her in connection with the cases involving Naia Terminal 3, net of the amounts paid for value-added tax, income tax, operating expenses and personal consumption."

Sereno was paid the fees for her services rendered from Oct. 23, 2003, to July 31, 2008, or four years and nine months.

PH eyeing joint sea patrol with neighbors

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia are considering joint patrols of their sea borders to combat piracy, smuggling and the movement of al-Qaida-linked militants, a top defense official said Thursday.

The proposal was discussed when Philippine Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin met earlier this week with his Indonesian and Malaysian counterparts, who traveled to the Philippines to visit their troops involved in efforts to strengthen a cease-fire between Filipino forces and Muslim guerrillas in the south.

The Philippines has considered joint naval patrols with either Indonesia or Malaysia in the past but a three-way effort would vastly improve security in the volatile region, Gazmin said.

The Southeast Asian nations share sea borders where

human and arms smuggling, piracy and the movement of militants from al-Qaida-linked have long been a concern.

In 2000, Abu Sayyaf gunmen crossed the border in speedboats and snatched 21 European tourists and Malaysian and Filipino workers from Malaysia's Sipadan diving resort and brought them to jungle strongholds in the southern Philippines, where the captives were later ransomed off.

Indonesia has also been concerned with the smuggling of firearms from the southern Philippines to Indonesia, where they could fall in the hands of Islamic militants.

Gazmin said authorities from the three countries would study the proposed joint naval patrols, along with real-time information exchanges and rapid-response arrangements to deal with emergencies at sea and cross-border crimes.

Aquino names Roxas as new DILG chief

By KAREN BONCOCAN
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—President Benigno Aquino III on Friday announced the appointment of Manuel “Mar” Roxas as the new secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government.

Roxas, who was appointed as chief of the Department of Transportation and Communications on June 7, 2011, takes over from the late Jesse Robredo who died in a plane crash in Masbate on August 18.

In an exclusive report, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* broke the news about Roxas’ appointment.

In a televised press briefing in Malacanang, Roxas acknowledged that he has “big shoes—or, rather, big *tsinelas*—to fill.”

“Transparency, accountability, people empowerment were the hallmarks of the leadership of Secretary Jesse. *Ito ang ipagpapatuloy natin.*”

Aquino said that both Robredo

and Roxas “share my complete trust.”

Abaya replaces Roxas

Aquino also announced that Cavite Representative Joseph Emilio Abaya will replace Roxas as head of the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC).

Aquino said that Abaya was “fully aware” of the tasks of the DOTC.

Aquino urged the Commission on Appointments to confirm the two officials, saying that they cannot assume their posts without their confirmation.

The Commission on Appointments failed to confirm Robredo despite Aquino’s repeated nomination of his ally and

Aquino’s bridge to the local officials, it was definitely Roxas who was fit for the job.

He said that Abaya, LP’s secretary general, was an excellent choice to lead the DOTC once Roxas moved on to the DILG.

“Roxas’ managerial and political skills and experience should prove useful at the helm of the DILG. In a sense, Secretary Roxas will be getting out of his usual comfort zone as a technocrat well-versed in economic issues but we are confident he can do well at his new position,” added Aurora Representative Juan Edgardo “Sonny” Angara.

This was echoed by Marikina Representative Romero “Miro” Quimbo who felt that Roxas was the “most

qualified” to replace Robredo. He said that the LP president’s “knowledge of the inner workings of the national government and an intimate exposure to the LGUs and its requirements” made him a good choice.

“We need someone who will hit the ground running,” he said.

Quimbo said that although Abaya’s move to the DOTC was a “loss in the House,” it was also “a great gain of the executive. He is one of our most brilliant members. He can easily handle DOTC [and]... his unquestionable integrity makes him another perfect team member for the Aquino cabinet.”



Roxas

US helps PH fortify defense in Palawan

By TARRA QUISMUNDO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Pursuing its pivot to Asia strategy, the United States on Thursday handed over to the Philippines new equipment to improve surveillance and law enforcement operations in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) as President Benigno Aquino prepared to meet China’s leader for talks that may include territorial disputes in those waters.

U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines Harry Thomas turned over to police and local government officials in Palawan province two new patrol boats and two boat-towing pick-ups to support the Philippine National Police Special Boat Unit (SBU) in the island province.

The United States is also helping the Philippines build a new SBU outstation on Balabac Island, off Palawan’s southernmost tip close to Sabah in Borneo.

Police and local officials in Palawan said the new equipment would not be used for border patrols in disputed parts of the West Philippine Sea but for surveillance against transnational crimes.

Containing China

But U.S. help to China’s rivals for territory in the West Philippine Sea is seen in Beijing as an attempt to contain China’s growing influence in the Asia-Pacific region, drawing hawkish comments from Chinese military leaders increasingly suspicious about Washington’s renewed focus on Asia.

The United States has said it has national interest in the maintenance of stability and freedom of navigation in the West Philippine Sea, parts of which US allies the Philippines, Vietnam and Taiwan claim but all of which China insists is part of its territory.

In April, China’s insistence of sovereignty over the entire sea met resistance from the Philippines, which stood its ground at Panatag Shoal (Scarborough Shoal), a reef within Philippine territory where Chinese fishermen had been caught poaching sharks and harvesting rare clams and corals. For two months, two Philippine vessels faced off with Chinese ships that sought to prevent the arrest of the fishermen until stormy weather

drove the Filipinos to shelter in mid-June.

The standoff has soured relations between the two countries, but Beijing’s proffer of a bilateral meeting between President Aquino and Chinese President Hu Jintao on the sidelines of the 20th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) leaders’ summit in Russia next week was seen as a sign that China is cooperating with the Philippines in finding a peaceful solution to the dispute.

Apec summit

The Apec leaders’ summit will be held on Russky Island, in the Pacific Ocean off the port city of Vladivostok, on September 8 and 9.

Foreign Undersecretary Laura del Rosario told a press briefing in Malacañang on Wednesday that China had proposed a one-on-one meeting between President Aquino and Hu and that Mr. Aquino would accept.

Mr. Aquino leaves for Vladivostok on September 7 to join other regional and world leaders in the summit on Russky.

He will join exchanges on trade and liberalization, regional economic integration, strengthening food security, establishing reliable supply chains and cooperation to foster innovative growth. Officials said the Philippines would present its position on each of these issues.

The President will address the Apec Business Advisory Council (Abac) Dialogue with Leaders, after which he will meet with Hu and the leaders of Japan, Singapore and Chile.

Del Rosario said Mr. Aquino would not raise the West Philippine Sea dispute in his meeting with Hu, but Hu was expected to bring it up.

In that case, Del Rosario said Mr. Aquino would explain to the Chinese side what the Philippines was doing to “de-escalate” tensions and maintain economic relations.

Focus on partnerships

Del Rosario said the meeting had not yet been confirmed, as the Philippine and Chinese delegations were still preparing their schedules.

But she said the Chinese side had proposed the meeting, and Mr. Aquino would accept.

She said the Philippines wanted to focus on boosting eco-

nomie partnerships with China during the meeting, not the West Philippine Sea dispute.

Aimed at fighting transnational crime, Thursday’s US activity in Palawan should not derail the Russky meeting.

Joint naval patrols

The US Embassy in Manila said the donation was part of continuing \$9-million (P380-million) US support to the SBU program, which was established in 2010 through a partnership between the PNP and the US Department of Justice’s International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program.

“This partnership has greatly increased the capabilities of the Philippine authorities to confront long-standing transnational organized criminal activity,” Thomas said in a statement.

The new equipment will also be useful should the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia approve joint patrols of their sea borders to combat piracy, smuggling and the movement of al-Qaeda-linked terrorists.

Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin on Thursday said that the proposal was discussed during his meeting earlier this week with his Malaysian and Indonesian counterparts, who traveled to the Philippines to visit their troops involved in efforts to strengthen a ceasefire between the Philippine military and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Gazmin said the three countries would study the proposed joint naval patrols, along with real-time information exchanges and rapid-response arrangements to deal with emergencies at sea and cross-border crimes.

First proposed in 2006 as a “modern police unit fully capable of enforcing maritime law,” the PNP SBU in Palawan has seized contraband worth \$1.1 million, or nearly P50 million, made 200 arrests at sea and accosted 17 vessels.

The arrests were related to cigarette and fuel smuggling, illegal drugs and weapons, illegal fishing and poaching of protected marine resources.

Illegal fishing and poaching are problems involving Chinese fishermen, but if the talks between Mr. Aquino and Hu are successful, Manila can expect an easing of these causes of friction with Beijing.



DESAPARECIDOS

Concepcion Empeno, mother of missing student activist Karen, speaks in front of a photo mosaic of Philippine President Benigno Aquino III during a rally to commemorate International Day of the Disappeared in Manila, Philippines on Thursday Aug. 30, 2012. Families and supporters gathered to demand the government for justice for all political activists who remain missing due to alleged abduction of security forces.

Philippine tycoon plans to build new airport

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The president of flagship carrier Philippine Airlines says he plans to build a new airport that can handle four times as many flights per hour as Manila’s congested airport.

Ramon Ang says he’s already talking to investors. He told reporters following a meeting Thursday with PAL Holdings’ stockholders that the new

airport will be built on a 2,000-hectare (4,940-acre) property but did not disclose its location.

Ang said construction could be completed in three years. He plans to present his proposal to President Benigno Aquino III next year.

Manila’s international airport, built in the 1950s, has been criticized as obsolete with decrepit facilities. It can handle 36 flights per hour.

Samut' Sari



TAPOCHAO MAKEOVER
Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands chair and Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa, left, hands a \$20,000 check to acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos during Thursday morning's official start of the Mt. Tapochao Rehabilitation Project. The \$48,000-project is a result of a public-private partnership involving the Marianas Visitors Authority, Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Islands, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and the Tournament of Champions.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



Tournament of Champions chair Ben Babauta, left, also gave a check donation in the amount of \$3,000 from the tournament's beautification fund, which they committed for the construction project.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



Saipan Chamber of Commerce director and Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu managing partner Michael S. Johnson, left, also presented a \$6,000 check toward the project. Looking on is Chamber executive director Richard Pierce, center.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



SHRM MEETING
Calvo's Select Care plan administrator Frank Campillo addresses members of the CNMI Chapter of Society of Human Resources Management during the group's membership meeting Thursday at Pacific Islands Club.

MONETH G. DEPOSA



MONETH G. DEPOSA

TakeCare plan administrator Tim Ogata, first right, answers questions from participants Thursday while other insurance officials listen. From right: are Ogata, Staywell's Francis Santos, NetCare's Jerry Crisostomo, and Calvo's Frank Campillo. The four are the guest speakers during Thursday's membership meeting of NMI Chapter of Society for Human Resource Management.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

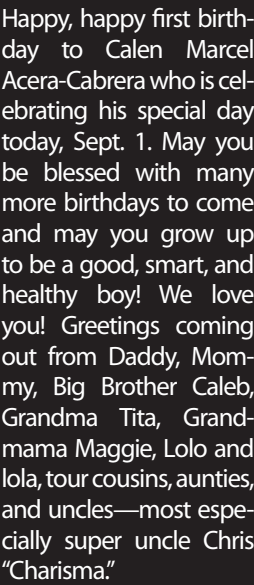
CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Happy 2nd birthday to Savanah Jhayce Agulto. You always enlighten our days every moment and we love you more and more. May you have the best blessings and enjoyable birthday ever. Greetings from your dad in Reno, mom, and family from Dandan and Kannat Tabla.



Belated happy birthday to baby Athena Luna Decena who celebrated her special day last Aug. 30 at Shirley's Coffeshop Susupe. Greetings from your family.



Happy, happy first birthday to Calen Marcel Acera-Cabrera who is celebrating his special day today, Sept. 1. May you be blessed with many more birthdays to come and may you grow up to be a good, smart, and healthy boy! We love you! Greetings coming out from Daddy, Mommy, Big Brother Caleb, Grandma Tita, Grandmama Maggie, Lolo and lola, tour cousins, aunties, and uncles—most especially super uncle Chris "Charisma."



Happy 12th birthday FrancoRay. You are the best thing that ever happened to me. May God continue to bless you with plenty of love and happiness. Enjoy your day son. Many blessings and love from Dad and your family.

Happy 48th birthday to Froilan I. Wabol. You have enlighten our days and may you have a blessed birthday Uncle! Greetings from Veralyn and Kimiko.

BON VOYAGE

Bon voyage to our mother, Geraldine P. Miller. We will miss you and we wish you the best. We love you Mom! From your two daughters, grandkids, and the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

US unemployment applications flat at 374,000

WASHINGTON (AP)—The number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits was unchanged last week at a seasonally adjusted 374,000, suggesting slow improvement in the job market.

The Labor Department said Thursday that the four-week moving average, a less volatile measure, increased to 370,250.

Applications for unemployment benefits reflect the pace of layoffs.

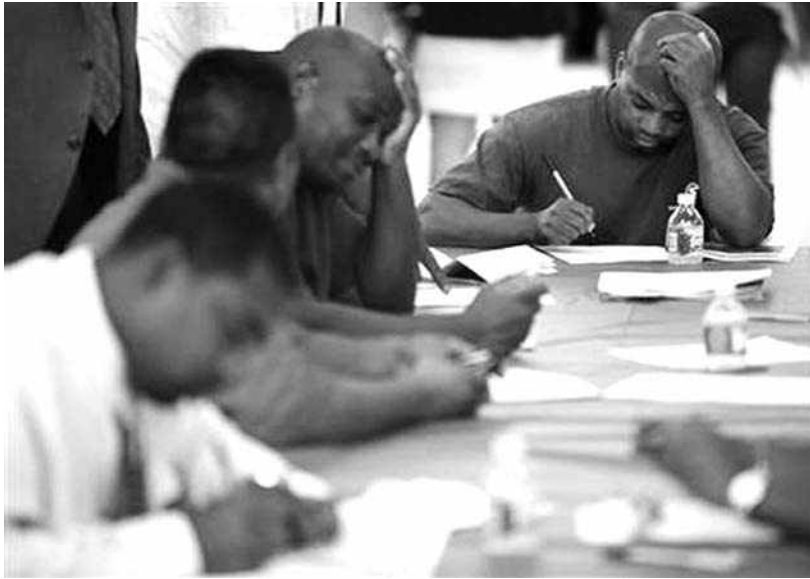
They have risen slightly over the past three weeks, though they remain lower than in spring, when hiring nearly stalled. Last week's number was revised upward to 374,000 from the 372,000 that was reported initially.

Still, when applications fall consistently below 375,000, it generally indicates that hiring is strong enough to lower the unemployment rate.

The latest applications data suggest that the government's employment report for August, to be released next week, will show job gains near the recent monthly average of 100,000, said Paul Dales, senior U.S. economist with Capital Economics. That isn't enough to drive down unemployment significantly.

"Given some of the indicators seen so far, the August payroll report is not going to look terribly inspirational," said Jennifer Lee, senior economist with BMO Capital Markets, in a note to clients.

Employers added 163,000 jobs in July. The hiring gains



In this Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2012, photo, job seekers fill out applications at a construction job fair in New York.

were an improvement from the previous three months, when the economy created an average of only 73,000 a month. But they weren't enough to lower the unemployment rate, which rose to 8.3 percent from 8.2 percent in June.

When the government releases the August jobs report on Sept. 7, analysts expect it to say the economy added 118,000 jobs in August and that the unemployment rate held at 8.3 percent, according to FactSet.

Economists say stronger growth is needed to create more jobs and lower unemployment.

The economy grew at a tepid 1.7 percent annual rate in the April-June quarter, the government said Wednesday. That's much slower growth than the 2 percent rate in the January-March quarter and 4.1 percent rate in the final three months of 2011.

Economists expect the economy will keep growing modestly in the second half of the year but at a subpar rate of

roughly 2 percent. Growth at or below 2 percent is not enough to lower the unemployment rate. Most economists expect the unemployment rate to stay above 8 percent for the rest of this year.

A weak economy and high unemployment could hurt President Barack Obama re-election chances and bolster Mitt Romney's campaign. Republicans in Tampa, Fla., this week to nominate Romney have pointed to the dismal growth in making the case to elect their candidate.

The Labor Department's report Thursday said the number of people receiving benefits continues to decline. The total fell to 5.5 million in the week ended Aug. 11, the latest period for which figures are available. That's down about 62,000 from the previous week.

Some of the decline likely results from people finding jobs. Many also are exhausting their benefits because of the still-struggling economy and job market.

Ford on track to beat Toyota with best-selling car

RAYONG, Thailand (AP)—Ford Motor Co. says its Focus small car is on track to become the best-selling car in the world this year, trumping the Toyota Corolla.

Ford sold 489,616 Focus sedans and hatchbacks worldwide in the first half of 2011. That was almost 27,000 more than the perennial best-seller, the Toyota Corolla.

Ford made the announcement at its assembly plant in Rayong, which opened in May to build

the Focus. The Thailand plant, which is one of Ford's most advanced, has the capacity to produce 150,000 cars per year for sale in Thailand, Vietnam, Australia and other countries in the region.

Ford's recently revamped Focus is sold in more than 100 countries worldwide. It's a strong seller in the U.S., where Focus sales were up 31 percent in the first half of the year compared with 2011. But the Corolla is still king in the U.S.,

where it outsold the Focus by nearly 27,500 in the first half of the year.

The Corolla could still top the Focus worldwide, too. Last year at this time the Focus was ahead of the Corolla, but the Corolla pulled through in the end, outselling the Focus by more than 259,000 vehicles.

At the plant Friday, Ford executives were also celebrating the production of the 350 millionth vehicle Ford has made since its founding 109 years ago.

Tokyo court: Samsung didn't infringe Apple patent

TOKYO (AP)—A Tokyo court has ruled that Samsung did not infringe on an Apple patent, in the latest development in the legal battle between the two technology titans.

The Tokyo District ruled

Friday that the technology used in the South Korean company's smartphones and tablet to synchronize with computers did not infringe on an Apple patent.

This is a separate case from a U.S. lawsuit between the two

companies.

Last week, a jury in California ruled that some of Samsung Electronics Co.'s smartphones violated Apple patents. The jury awarded Apple Inc. \$1 billion in damages.

Nation

Romney: It's okay to be disappointed with Obama

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Republican Mitt Romney has a message for the millions of Americans who voted for Democratic President Barack Obama: It's OK to be disappointed.

Romney used the biggest moment of his political career to tell Americans about his own background and family as he appealed to the feelings of anxiety that are rippling through the electorate as the nation faces stubbornly high unemployment and fears about its future place in the world.

"Hope and change had a powerful appeal. But tonight I'd ask a simple question: If you felt that excitement when you voted for Barack Obama, shouldn't you feel that way now that he's President Obama?" Romney said as he formally accepted the Republican presidential nomination Thursday night. "You know there's something wrong with the kind of job he's done as president when the best feeling you had was the day you voted for him."

In a deeply personal speech that had him visibly emotional at times, Romney sought to forge the kind of personal connection that has in some ways eluded him. While Americans

trust him to handle the economy, polls show he's still not as well liked as Obama—and the speech represented an effort to broaden his appeal and connect with women and with middle-of-the-road voters who will ultimately decide his fate.

"Four years from the excitement of the last election, for the first time, the majority of Americans now doubt that our children will have a better future," Romney said. "It is not what we were promised."

Obama, he said, made huge, sweeping pledges—instead of focusing on issues closer to home.

"President Obama promised to begin to slow the rise of the oceans and heal the planet," said Romney. "My promise is to help you and your family."

In his quest to connect, he talked about his time as a young husband and father, with five rambunctious sons.

"Those weren't the easiest of days—too many long hours and weekends working, five young sons who seemed to have this need to re-enact a different world war every night," he said, his eyes visibly teary in a rare display of emotion. "If you

ask Ann and I what we'd give, to break up just one more fight between the boys, or wake up in the morning and discover a pile of kids asleep in our room. Well, every mom and dad knows the answer to that."

Romney's voice cracked as he talked about his mother, Lenore, who ran unsuccessfully for the Senate in Michigan, and his father George, who served as governor of Michigan and ran unsuccessfully for the Republican presidential nomination in 1968.

"My mom and dad were true partners, a life lesson that shaped me by everyday example," Romney said. "When my mom ran for the Senate, my dad was there for her every step of the way."

Romney also made rare direct references to his faith.

"We were Mormons and growing up in Michigan. That might have seemed unusual or out of place but I really don't remember it that way," he said. "My friends cared more about what sports teams we followed than what church we went to."

As the speech ended and balloons fell from the ceiling, Romney was joined onstage by running mate Paul Ryan—he said, "good job, good job," in Romney's ear—and then by his wife, children and grandchildren.

ACROSS THE NATION

Weakening Isaac hovers over water-logged Louisiana

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Isaac hovered over Louisiana for a third day Thursday, shedding more than a foot of additional rain that forced authorities to hurriedly evacuate areas ahead of the storm and rescue hundreds of people who could not escape as the rapidly rising waters swallowed entire neighborhoods. The huge spiral weather system weakened to a tropical depression as it crawled inland, but it caught many places off guard by following a meandering, unpredictable path. The storm's excruciatingly slow movement meant that Isaac practically parked over low-lying towns and threw off great sheets of water for hours. "I was blindsided. Nobody expected this," said Richard Musatchia, who fled his water-filled home in LaPlace, northwest of New Orleans.

10-year-old Maine girl charged in infant's death

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—A 10-year-old girl was charged Thursday with manslaughter in the death of an infant whose mother said had ingested medication

and been suffocated. The girl, who is not being identified, is the youngest person to be charged with manslaughter in Maine in at least 25 years. The 3-month-old infant, Brooklyn Foss-Greenaway, of Clinton in central Maine, had been left overnight with an adult baby sitter in nearby Fairfield. The sitter called police early July 8 to report that the infant was not breathing, authorities said. Emergency workers who arrived minutes later reported that child was unresponsive.

Man gets 99 years for sex assault of Texas girl

LIBERTY, Texas (AP)—A man convicted of participating in the repeated group sexual assault of an 11-year-old Texas girl was sentenced Thursday to 99 years in prison—but he wasn't in court to face his fate. As the verdict and sentence were read in the Southeast Texas courtroom, authorities were searching for Eric McGowen, who fled a day earlier after the victim tearfully testified about the attacks. Prosecutors say the girl was sexually assaulted on at least five occasions from mid-September through early December of 2010 by 20 men and boys from her town,

Cleveland, which is about 45 miles northeast of Houston. McGowen was free on bail at the time he disappeared, so authorities say a security detail was not required to watch or follow him. The Liberty County Sheriff's Office has declined to release any details about the search for McGowen, other than to say that he is believed to be armed and dangerous.

2 more Yosemite visitors have mouse-borne virus

FRESNO, Calif. (AP)—Two more Yosemite National Park visitors have been found with a mouse-borne virus blamed for the deaths of two people, bringing the total number of infections to six, state health officials said Thursday. Anita Gore, a spokeswoman for California Department of Public Health, said the discoveries were made through the agency's investigation into cases of hantavirus pulmonary syndrome at the famed park. The infections spurred park officials to close 91 tent cabins at Curry Village in Yosemite Valley, where five of the six infections occurred. Gore said one of the infected people may have been in another area of the park.

Asia

Twin typhoons raise fears in disaster-prone NKorea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Twin typhoons renewed fears of a humanitarian crisis in North Korea, where poor drainage, widespread deforestation and crumbling infrastructure can turn even a routine rainstorm into a catastrophic flood.

Typhoon Bolaven struck the North on Tuesday and Wednesday, submerging houses and roads, ruining thousands of acres of crops and triggering landslides that buried train tracks—scenes that are all too familiar in this disaster-prone nation. A second major storm, Typhoon Tembin, pounded the Korean Peninsula with more rains Thursday before dissipating.

The storms came with North Korea still recovering from earlier floods that killed more than 170 people and destroyed thousands of homes. That in turn followed a springtime drought that was the worst in a century in some areas.

The disaster relief group AmeriCares announced late Thursday that enough emergency antibiotics and medical supplies to treat 15,000 North Koreans would be airlifted to the country as early as this week in coordination with North Korean officials. Damage to 69 hospitals and clinics suffered during the earlier floods has left 700,000 North Koreans without access to health care at a time when scores are fighting off the threat of infection while living in temporary shelters, the group said in a statement.

Other foreign aid groups said they were standing by in Pyongyang, but had not received new requests for help from the North Korean government. They had little information on the extent of damage and were relying on reports from state media. The country's wariness toward the outside world, as well as a primitive rural road system, means

aid may be slow arriving, if it is allowed to come at all.

"These fresh storms, coming just a few weeks after the serious flooding - they do raise concerns because we see parts of the countryside battered again that have already been left in a vulnerable state," said Francis Markus, spokesman for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in East Asia.

Tembin's strong winds and hard rain pounded South Korea on Thursday as residents of some cities waded through streets flooded with murky, knee-deep water. The storm moved off the peninsula's east coast overnight. The national weather agency in Seoul predicted some cities in southern North Korea could see up to 80 mm (3.15 inches) of rain, but North Korea didn't immediately release details on rainfall, deaths or damage from the latest storm.

Pakistani officials confirm death of key militant

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistani intelligence officials confirmed Thursday that a U.S. drone strike last week near the Afghan border killed the son of the founder of the powerful Haqqani militant network, a major blow to one of the most feared groups fighting American troops in Afghanistan.

Badrudin Haqqani, who has been described as the organization's day-to-day operations commander, was killed Aug. 24 in one of three strikes that hit militant hideouts in the Shawal Valley in Pakistan's North Waziristan tribal area, said two senior intelligence officials,

speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

A U.S. official confirmed that Badruddin Haqqani was killed in a CIA drone strike. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the drone program publicly.

The presence of the mostly Afghan Haqqani network in North Waziristan has been a major source of friction between Pakistan and the U.S. The Obama administration has repeatedly demanded that Pakistan prevent the group from using its territory to launch attacks

in Afghanistan, but Islamabad has refused—a stance many analysts believe is driven by the country's strong historical ties to the Haqqani network's founder, Jalaluddin Haqqani.

The Pakistani intelligence officials didn't specify which strike on Aug. 24 killed Badrudin, but said he was leaving a hideout when the U.S. missiles hit. The confirmation of his death came from their sources within the Taliban, which is allied with the Haqqani network, and agents on the ground, they said. But neither the officials nor their sources have actually seen Badruddin's body.

China to abide by its international obligations on treatment of refugees. He told a news conference: "The U.S. believes that refugees should only return home by their own choice and in conditions of safety and dignity." Kachin rebels have been fighting for more autonomy for decades. A 17-year cease-fire broke down last year, and clashes with government forces have displaced tens of thousands. Rights groups say Myanmar forces have committed serious abuses against civilians.

Commission says Maldives power transfer was legal

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—A domestic inquiry commission in the Maldives has concluded that former President Mohamed Nasheed's resignation earlier this year was legal, and that he was not forced to step down at gunpoint as he has claimed. Nasheed has rejected the report, which was formally released Thursday, and his supporters have resumed street protests in the Indian Ocean nation threatening to deepen the political divisions in the new democracy. Nasheed became archipelago nation's first democratically elected president in 2008 after 30 years of autocratic rule, but his allegedly illegal order to arrest a senior judge led to public protests and his February resignation. The commission was set up to investigate allegations that mutinying police and soldiers forced him to step down.

World

Egypt leader in Iran: World must back Syria rebels

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—In a sweeping message that Iran is on the wrong side of Syria's civil war, Egypt's new president urged the world Thursday to support the rebels seeking to topple Bashar Assad and suggested that Tehran could risk a deepening confrontation with regional powers over the fate of the regime in Damascus.

The stinging comments by President Mohammed Morsi—making his first visit to Iran by an Egyptian leader since the 1979 Islamic Revolution—was another blindside blow for Iran as host of an international gathering of so-called non-aligned nations.

His speech, delivered while seated next to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, prompted Syria's delegation to walk out of the gathering.

■ ■ ■
UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Turkey appealed to a reluctant UN Security Council Thursday for a safe haven for thousands of Syrians facing a "humanitarian disaster" as Britain and France said they would rule out no options—including a no-fly zone—to aid residents fleeing an escalating civil war.

Russia claims killer demands Pussy Riot freed

MOSCOW (AP)—The bodies of an elderly woman and her daughter were found in Russia beneath a scrawled message demanding freedom for the jailed members of the Pussy Riot band, officials said Thursday.

While a Russian investigator cautioned that the killer was possibly trying to mislead police by drawing attention to the punk provocateurs, the alleged link between a killer and anti-Putin protesters was immediately seized upon by Russian media and pro-Kremlin publicists.

Three members of the band were sentenced this month to two years in prison for a February "punk prayer" performance in Moscow's main cathedral entreating the Virgin Mary to

But Turkish leaders held out little hope for the endorsement of a deeply divided council that has been paralyzed on taking action to stop the 18-month uprising that has killed more than 20,000 people.

"How long are we going to sit and watch while an entire generation is being wiped out by random bombardment and deliberate mass targeting?" asked Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu. "Let's not forget that if we do not act against such a crime against humanity happening in front of our eyes, we become accomplices to the crime."

■ ■ ■
Morsi made it clear his six-hour stop in Tehran was intended as an ice-breaker. He referred to Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as "my dear brother" and paid homage to "the sister Islamic Republic of Iran"—significant departures from the bitter rhetoric of the Mubarak era.

"His visit signifies that Iran is an important regional power that cannot be ignored," said Mohamed Abbas Nagi, an Iranian affairs analyst at Cairo's Ahram Center for Political and

save Russia from Vladimir Putin, who at the time was on the verge of winning a new term as Russian president.

An official of the Russian Orthodox Church on Thursday said supporters of the band bear a moral responsibility for the gruesome killings in the city of Kazan.

"This blood is on the conscience of the so-called public, which supported the participants in the action in Christ the Savior Cathedral, because the result is that people with unstable mentality got carte blanche," said Archpriest Dmitry Smirnov, the church's envoy to law enforcement agencies, the Interfax news agency reported.

Some publications ran headlines claiming that Pussy Riot

Strategic Studies.

"However, Morsi's rise came out of Egypt's own revolution, so how can Egypt pursue better ties with Iran now when that country is suppressing a revolution in Syria?" added Nagi, noting that Egypt's immediate priority appears to be restoring relations with Saudi Arabia and other wealthy Gulf states that were close to Mubarak.

Morsi also gave a nod to Iran by stressing the rights of countries to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes under international protocols. The West fears Iran's uranium enrichment could lead to atomic weapons, but Iran has insisted that it only seeks reactors for energy and medical purposes.

The U.N. chief called Iran's nuclear program a "top concern" of the international community and urged Tehran's "full cooperation" with the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency, which seeks greater access to Iranian sites for inspections. The IAEA said Thursday that Iran has effectively shut down a probe of its Parchin military site southeast of Tehran believed to have been used for work on nuclear weapons.

supporters "committed" or "inspired" a double homicide. The coverage was full of the mostly negative terms used by Kremlin-friendly television networks and media in their coverage of the protesters' trial.

The trial, widely seen as Kremlin-orchestrated, caused an international furor, with celebrities such as Paul McCartney urging Russian authorities to free the band.

The jailed band members' attorney said on Twitter that "what happened in Kazan is horrible," calling the case "either a horrendous provocation or a psychopathic" case.

"I am sorry that some freaks are using Pussy Riot's band name," Nikolai Polozov was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying.



ASIA BRIEFS

Flags burnt in attacks in Thailand's restive south

PATTANI, Thailand (AP)—Police in Thailand say insurgents have staged a wave of coordinated attacks in the Muslim-dominated south of the country, burning Thai flags and raising Malaysian flags in their place for the first time in years. Friday's attacks come on the anniversary of the 1989 founding of an umbrella separatist group, as well as the anniversary of neighboring Malaysia's independence from British rule. Police Col. Narin Busaman says dozens of small bomb attacks took place in Thailand's four southernmost provinces. At least one person was wounded. The insurgents are widely believed to be mainly ethnic Malays, but it's not clear why they would raise Malaysian flags. Analysts say the militants want a separate state but have never said they want to be part of Malaysia.

US urges China to protect Myanmar refugees

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. is urging China to offer temporary protection to ethnic Kachin (ka-CHIN) refugees who have fled conflict in northern Myanmar and not force them back. Human Rights Watch says China recently forced at least 1,000 Kachin to return to a combat zone and plans to deport 4,000 more. State Department spokesman Patrick Ventrell on Thursday urged



WORLD BRIEFS

Zimbabwe's capital 'world's 4th worst to live in'

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—An independent research group says Zimbabwe's capital is the world's fourth-worst city to live in, based on daily hardships and political risk. Cities in war zones are excluded from the "livability" index. The British-based Economist Intelligence Unit put Harare 137th out of 140 cities surveyed and gave it a 39.4 rating on a scale to 100 for ideal urban conditions. In its report available Thursday, Harare ranked marginally better than Lagos in Nigeria, Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea and Dhaka, Bangladesh. In cities with a score of 50 or less "most aspects of living are severely restricted," it said. The study aims to help businesses calculate hardship allowances for executives and employees.

Miners charged in deaths of 34 killed by police

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—About 270 miners were charged Thursday with the murders of 34 striking colleagues who were shot by South African police officers, authorities said, a development that could further infuriate South Africans already shocked and angered by the police action. The decision to charge the miners comes under an arcane Roman-Dutch common purpose law used under the apartheid regime, and it suggests President Jacob Zuma's government wants to shift blame for the killings from police to the striking miners. Firebrand politician Julius Malema, who has seized on the shootings to score political points, told supporters of miners outside the courthouse that the charges were "madness."

YoungStyle

NEW YORK (AP)—Teens who routinely smoke marijuana risk a long-term drop in their IQ, a new study suggests.

The researchers didn't find the same IQ dip for people who became frequent users of pot after 18. Although experts said the new findings are not definitive, they do fit in with earlier signs that the drug is especially harmful to the developing brain.

"Parents should understand that their adolescents are particularly vulnerable," said lead researcher Madeline Meier of Duke University.

Study participants from New Zealand were tested for IQ at age 13, likely before any significant marijuana use, and again at age 38. The mental decline between those two ages was seen only in those who started regularly smoking pot before age 18.

Richie Poulton, a study co-author and professor at the University of Otago in New Zealand, said the message of the research is to stay away from marijuana until adulthood if possible. "For some it's a legal issue," he said, "but for me it's a health issue."

Pot is the most popular illegal drug in the world, with somewhere between 119 million and 224 million users between the ages of 15 and 64 as of 2010, the United Nations reported. Within the United States, 23 percent of high school students said they'd recently smoked marijuana, making it more popular than cigarettes, the federal government reported in June.

Young people "don't think it's risky," said Staci Gruber, a researcher at the Harvard-affiliated MacLean Hospital in Belmont, Mass. Gruber, who didn't participate in the new work, said the idea that marijuana harms the adolescent brain is "something we believe is very likely," and the new finding of IQ declines warrants further investigation.

Experts said the new research is an advance because its methods avoid criticisms of some earlier work, which generally did not measure mental performance before marijuana use began.

"I think this is the cleanest study I've ever read" that looks for long-term harm from marijuana use, said Dr. Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute



Michael Oliveri, right, medical cannabis patient smokes marijuana during a news conference in Universal City, Calif., Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2012. AP

Teen pot use linked to later declines in IQ

By **MALCOLM RITTER** and **NICK PERRY**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

on Drug Abuse, which helped fund the research.

Ken Winters, a psychiatry professor at the University of Minnesota and senior scientist

at the Treatment Research Institute in Philadelphia, said the new findings aren't definitive, but they underscore the importance of studying how marijuana

may harm young people. He had no role in the work.

Meier and colleagues reported their work online Monday in the Proceedings of the Na-

tional Academy of Sciences. It was funded with governmental grants from the United States and Britain, and a foundation in Zurich.

The study drew on survey data from more than 1,000 people in New Zealand, everybody born in the town of Dunedin during a year-long span ending in 1973. In addition to IQ tests, they were interviewed five times between ages 18 and 38, including questions related to their marijuana use.

At age 18, 52 participants indicated they had become dependent on marijuana, meaning that they continued to use it despite its causing significant health, social or legal problems. Ninety-two others reported dependence starting at a later age.

Researchers compared their IQ scores at age 13 to the score at age 38 and found a drop only in those who had become dependent by 18.

Those deemed dependent in three or more surveys had a drop averaging 8 points. For a person of average intelligence, an 8-point drop would mean ranking higher than only 29 percent of the population rather than 50 percent, the researchers said.

Among participants who'd been dependent at 18 and in at least one later survey, quitting didn't remove the problem. IQ declines showed up even if they'd largely or entirely quit using pot at age 38, analysis showed.

The researchers got similar overall results for IQ decline when they compared participants who reported having used marijuana at least once a week on average for the past year. The researchers had no data on how much was used on each occasion or how potent it was.

Dr. Duncan Clark, a researcher at the University of Pittsburgh, said he's not convinced that mental decline is only in those who become dependent by age 18. He said the main lesson he sees in the overall study results is that to preserve one's IQ, it's best to avoid marijuana entirely, no matter what your age.

The researchers also surveyed people who knew the study participants well at age 38. They found that the more often participants were rated as marijuana-dependent in the surveys over their lifetimes, the more memory and attention problems were noticed by their acquaintances over the previous year.

By **GREG TOPPO**
USA TODAY

Hey, kid: Hang up and walk!

A new study suggests "distracted walking" is taking a toll on teenagers as the number of pedestrian injuries soars among 16- to 19-year-olds even as it drops among nearly every other age group.

The findings, out today from Safe Kids Worldwide, a non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C., that pushes to

prevent unintentional childhood injuries, found that the number of teens injured in pedestrian accidents rose 25% in the five-year period from 2006 to 2010, compared with 2001-05.

Using recent data on the growing prevalence of teen gadget usage, Safe Kids suggested the rise in teen injuries "is related to distraction, caused by the use of elec-

tronics and handheld devices while walking."

"We've got an emerging problem, and the emerging problem is what's going on with our teenagers," said Kate Carr, the group's president.

"We have distracted drivers who may be hitting pedestrians in the street, but we also have distracted pedestrians who are walking in front of cars."

Recent findings from the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project show cellphone ownership among young people grew sharply in the second half of the past decade. Pew found that teens send and receive an average of 110 text messages daily.

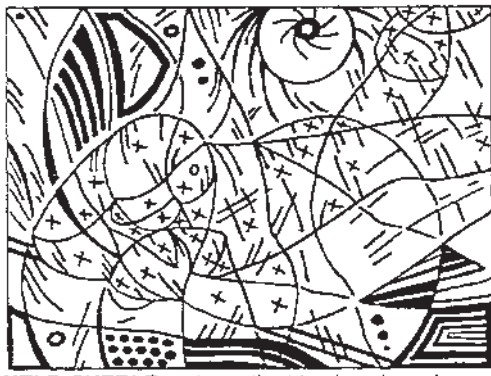
The good news: Pedestrian injury and death rates per 100,000 kids are declining

across the board—just not as quickly among teens. In 1995, according to federal highway safety data, pedestrian death rates for teens were slightly higher than those for children ages 5 to 9. By 2010, teen death rates were more than three times as high.

Researchers have already suggested a link between kids' cellphone use and pedestrian

distraction: In a 2009 study in the journal Pediatrics, University of Alabama researchers put 77 kids age 10 to 11 through a street-crossing simulation. In half of the crossings, they asked kids to talk on a cellphone.

When distracted by conversations, kids were less attentive to traffic and left less "safe time" between their crossing and the next vehicle. They walked into more collisions and had more close calls with oncoming traffic.



HELD OVER! Zero in on the big play above by shading areas marked with an X. Use an ordinary pencil or dark crayon.

OPS and OOPS! There's a hot dog but no cold dog. There's a down payment but no up payment. Tightwad, loosewad? Sweet pea, sour pea? Hard copy, soft copy? Any to add?

GRAB BAG! Let's see how quick you are with head and hand. Extend one arm forward, with fist closed. Place a coin atop the back of your hand. Now, dropping your arm suddenly, attempt to bring your hand down and under to catch the falling coin in your palm.

Once you've mastered this, try reversing the twist of your wrist. That is to say, turn it in the opposite direction.

Remember, the object is to grab coin before it falls.

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

99999
- 9999
86997

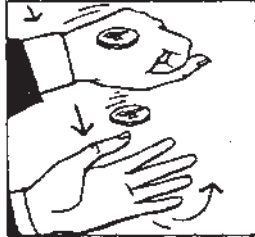
SORRY, WRONG NUMBERS!

ALAS, we have the right answer to the subtraction problem provided at left, but we do not have the right subtractable amounts. Indeed, what's wrong is that four of the numbers are upside down.

Simply invert three nines in the top row and one nine in the middle row (that is to say, make them sixes), and alakazam, the answer is correct.

How long will it take you to up-end the nines?

Time limit is three minutes.



MINI-TEST! Five consecutive numbers add to 100. Quickly, what numbers?

Answer: 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22.

Top row: Nine, nine, six, six, nine, nine, nine.
Middle row: Nine, six, six, nine, six, nine, nine.

Kids and dogs

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: A while ago, you printed information on how to safely approach strange dogs. I'd like my two children to be familiar with those procedures. Can you provide that information?—Candice C., Las Vegas

DEAR CANDICE: I sure can. Here are a few tips courtesy of the American Kennel Club on how to safely approach a strange dog:

■ **Ask permission:** It's very important to ask a dog's owner first if you can pet the dog. Not every dog reacts the same way to strangers petting them, and the owner will know if the dog is friendly and if it is safe for you to approach.

■ **Approach calmly:** If the owner says yes, make a fist, extend your hand slowly to the dog, and let it sniff the back of your hand. Dogs recognize people by scent, so letting it sniff your hand lets the dog become familiar with you.

■ **Where to pet:** Once the dog has sniffed your hand, pet it gently under the chin or on the chest.

■ **Don't hug dogs:** Kids should never hug a dog. Dogs don't hug each other, and they don't understand hugs to mean love and affection like humans



do. Wrapping your arms around a dog can stress it out and lead to an unnecessary bite.

■ **Keep your chin up:** Never put your face down in front of a dog. This can be threatening to the dog and cause it to react.

Find out more about safely approaching dogs and about the AKC's upcoming "Meet the Breeds" event at http://www.akc.org/meet_the_breeds/.

■■■

Send your questions or tips to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. For more pet care-related advice and information, visit www.pawscorner.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

■ It was American singer Josh Groban who made the following sage observation: "There's no half-singing in the shower, you're either a rock star or an opera diva."

■ If you're considering having a child sometime in the near future, you might want to consider this: It's said that the cost of caring for a newborn during its first year of life is more than \$6,000.

■ In 1986, actor and director Clint Eastwood took on a new and unfamiliar role: political candidate. He ran for mayor of Carmel, Calif. He defeated the incumbent mayor in a landslide, and he kept the position for two years. His salary? A whopping \$200 per week.

■ Often these days you'll see someone carrying a tiny dog around with them, but you might be surprised to learn that this is not an entirely new fashion. In ancient Rome and Greece it was not uncommon for a noble lady to carry her tiny Maltese dog around in the sleeve of her robe.

■ In the early days of motion pictures, Will H. Hays became known as the "Czar of Hollywood." He presided over the earliest incarnation of the MPAA, charged with ensuring the morality of movies. Some of the changes the so-called "Hays Office" insisted upon were removing the image of a cow's udder from a Walt Disney cartoon; and removing any direct reference to adultery in the 1935 adaptation of the Tolstoy novel "Anna Karenina"—despite the fact that Anna's affair is at the heart of the novel.

■ Those who study such things say that a woman's sense of smell tends to be better than that of a man.

■■■

Thought for the Day: "I think that I am better than the people who are trying to reform me."—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

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MAGIC MAZE • GIRLS ONLY

W N J G D Z W S T Q N K I I D A
X U R S P M (S O P R A N O) J G
D A X V S E S S X E Q N K I F
D A X V C E T I Q T O M J H F
C A Y N W S R S U H R P N I J
H F I D E T S T A G B Y Z X R
V R T R A E Q E I U D O M E K
P I O I R H U R D A N F H D B
Z Y V T W V T Q L D W T R Q O
N A C L L K I E N I O R E H S
N A M O W A H F D M C G A Z X

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions—forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Actress	Goddess	Princess	Soprano
Alto	Heroine	Queen	Waitress
Aunt	Lady	She	Woman
Daughter	Mother	Sister	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

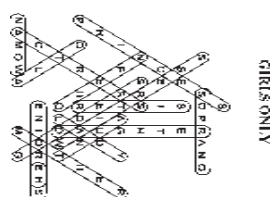
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	+		×		32
×		-		×	
	÷		+		9
+		×		-	
	-		×		12
25		10		25	

2 3 4 4 5 6 7 8 9

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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

25		10		25	
9	-	5		×	
3		3		×	
				+	
8	÷	4		×	
9		7		-	
×				×	
32		4		×	
2	+	6		9	+

Cool summer pudding from England

While the 2012 Summer Olympics in London were in full swing on screens across the U.S. and the world, I loved how the cameras put viewers like us in the middle of the action, as if we were paddling our own kayaks through a white-water course or leaping with the women gymnasts for the gold. But amidst all the excitement, there was one thing we missed out on—the smells and tastes of the local English food enjoyed by spectators attending the event.

I decided to make the Olympics a cultural experience at home and created a taste of London by preparing an old English late-summer dessert called "Summer Pudding." For the Brits, the word "pudding" ("pud" for short) actually means "dessert," and this fun recipe from across the pond can become a memorable finale to an August dinner. It's full of fresh berries, and the easy prep doesn't require any baking, so the kitchen stays cool. It's a great use for day-old bread, too!

Kids love to take part in the easy prep, so gather the ingredients and enjoy this fresh, beautiful dessert while it's still summer.

ENGLISH SUMMER PUDDING

Ingredients:

16 slices of day-old, firm white bread, without preservatives

6 cups assorted berries, such as blueberries, blackberries, raspberries and strawberries

1 cup sugar

1 tablespoon freshly squeezed lemon juice

Whipped cream

1. In a saucepan, combine berries, sugar and lemon juice. Stir over medium heat until berries release their juices, about 5 minutes. Remove from

Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

heat and drain berries over a bowl, reserving the juice.

2. Line the inside of a 5-6 cup bowl with plastic wrap. Trim and discard crusts from the bread and cut slices diagonally



into four pieces. Dip each triangle into the juice, then arrange on the bottom and in a continuous pattern around the inside of the bowl to create a pinwheel effect. Fill any gaps with more bread, saving some bread for the next step.

3. Fill the bread-lined bowl almost to the top with the drained berries. Place a single layer of the remaining bread on top of the berries to create a cover. Spoon remaining juice evenly over the top.

4. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap, and then set a small plate on top that just fits inside the bowl. Set a heavy, 2-pound can on the plate to provide weight. Refrigerate overnight.

5. To serve, remove the can, plate and plastic wrap and carefully invert the colorful molded pudding onto a serving plate. Remove the plastic wrap liner. Slice into wedges with a large spoon and serve with a dollop of whipped cream.

■■■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Life & Style

Clint Eastwood is Mitt Romney's opening act

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Clint Eastwood, the Hollywood filmmaker who knows all about sticking to the script, turned in what seemed like an oddly unscripted endorsement of Republican Mitt Romney Wednesday night.

Standing on the convention stage with an empty chair, Eastwood carried on a sometimes rambling conversation with an imaginary President Barack Obama.

The actor and director talked about Oprah Winfrey, Obama's unfulfilled promise to close the U.S. prison at Guantanamo, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and lawyers.

At one point, Eastwood talked about letting Obama go and making a change.

"When somebody doesn't do the job, you gotta let 'em go," Eastwood said. The tough-guy actor of "Dirty Harry" fame drew



Actor Clint Eastwood speaks to delegates during the Republican National Convention in Tampa, Fla., on Thursday, Aug. 30, 2012.

a finger across his throat.

The crowd cheered Eastwood's entrance and his famed shout-ed his famed catchphrase, "Go

ahead, make my day." But backstage, stern-faced Romney aides winced at times as Eastwood's remarks stretched on.

On a night where virtually every moment was scripted, Eastwood was among the only speakers not reading from a teleprompter as he spoke.

The Oscar-winning director of "Unforgiven" and "Million Dollar Baby," Eastwood criticized Obama for failing to turn the economy around and for wanting to close the Guantanamo Bay prison for terror suspects.

Eastwood says Obama has failed to deliver on his promises and it's time for Romney and his running mate, Paul Ryan, to take over.

He entertained the audience with a mock interview with Obama, posing questions and pretending that Obama had told Eastwood to shut up.

Eastwood endorsed Romney earlier this month at a campaign event in Sun Valley, Idaho.

Hip-hop mogul Chris Lighty dies in NYC at 44

NEW YORK (AP)—Chris Lighty, a hip-hop mogul who helped the likes of Sean "Diddy" Combs, 50 Cent and Mariah Carey attain not only hit records, but also lucrative careers outside music, was found dead in his New York City apartment Thursday in an apparent suicide. He was 44.

He was found at his home in the Bronx with a gunshot to the head and was pronounced dead there, police said. No note was recovered, but a 9 mm handgun was found and there was no sign of forced entry, said Paul Browne, New York police spokesman. The shooting appears to be self-inflicted, authorities said.

Lighty had been a part of the scene for decades, working with pioneers like LL Cool J before starting his own management company, Violator. But he was in the midst of a divorce and had been having recent financial and personal troubles.

Twitter was abuzz with condo-

lences just hours after the body was found around 11:30 a.m.

"R.I.P. Chris Lighty," Fat Joe posted on his account. "The man that saved my life!" Diddy wrote: "In shock." Rihanna posted: "Rest peacefully Chris Lighty, my prayers go out to family and loved ones! Dear God please have mercy." And Mary J. Blige wrote: "U never know what can send a person over the edge or make them want 2 keep living. take it easy on people."

50 Cent said in a statement issued through his publicist that he was deeply saddened by the loss.

"Chris has been an important part of my business and personal growth for a decade," he said. "He was a good friend and advisor who helped me develop as an artist and businessman. My prayers are with his family. He will be greatly missed."

Lighty was raised by his mother in the Bronx as one of six children. He ran with a group called



This Feb. 28, 2007 file photo shows hip-hop mogul Chris Lighty in his office in New York.

The Violators, the inspiration for the name of his management company, according to the company website. He was a player in the hip-hop game since he was a kid DJ. He rose through the ranks at Rush Management—mogul Russell Simmons' first company—before eventually founding Violator Management in the late 1990s.

"Today, we lost a hip-hop hero and one of its greatest architects," Simmons tweeted.

Lighty's roster ranged from Academy Award-winners Three 6 Mafia to maverick Missy Elliott to up-and-comer Papoose and perpetual star Carey. He made it his mission not so much to make musical superstars, but rather multifaceted entertainers who could be marketed in an array of ways: a sneaker deal here, a soft drink partnership there, a movie role down the road.

In a 2007 interview with The Associated Press, Lighty talked about creating opportunities for his stars—a Chapstick deal for LL Cool J, known for licking his lips, and a vitamin supplement deal for 50 Cent.

"As music sales go down because kids are stealing it off the Internet and trading it and iPod sales continue to rise, you can't rely on just the income that you would make off of being an artist," he said at the time.

Eddie Van Halen has surgery for digestive disease

NEW YORK (AP)—Eddie Van Halen has undergone emergency surgery for a digestive disease and is canceling his tour in Japan to recover.

This June 1, 2012 file photo shows guitarist Eddie Van Halen of the band Van Halen performing in Los Angeles.

His representative said Thursday that the guitarist had a "severe bout of diverticulitis," a painful condition that involves the formation of pouches on the outside of the colon. He is expected to recover in four to six months.

The rep added that the 57-year-old will not require more surgeries to treat the disease.

The musician had plans to tour Japan in November and will reschedule the dates for next year.

Van Halen is best known for hits including "Jump," "Why Can't This Be Love" and "When It's Love." The group released a new album, "A Different Kind of Truth," in February.



Coroner: Sage Stallone died from heart condition

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sylvester Stallone's son Sage died at age 36 from natural causes due to a heart condition, coroner's officials said Thursday.

Sage Stallone's death on July 13 was attributed to a condition that causes blockage of the arteries, and no other factors were involved. It has been classified a natural death.

The actor and film director's sudden death stunned his family and friends. Sylvester Stallone's publicist described him as "devastated and grief-stricken" and the actor skipped several promotional events for his film "The Expendables 2."

Sage Moonblood Stallone was the oldest of Sylvester Stallone's children and co-starred with his

father in two films. He also became involved in moviemaking, directing the 2006 short "Vic," which screened at the Palm Springs Film Festival.

He made his acting debut in 1990's "Rocky V" and appeared with his father in 1996's "Daylight."

Also in 1996, Sage Stallone and veteran film editor Bob Mu-

rawski co-founded Grindhouse Releasing, a company dedicated to preserving and promoting the B-movies and exploitation films of the 1970s and 80s.

He was found dead in his home by an employee and a relative. No foul play had been suspected, and toxicology results showed only a minimal amount of hydrocodone in his system.

Make sure your dog's toys don't become objects of peril

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am writing hoping to avert another tragedy like we experienced last week. Our German shepherd, Leah, was playing with a hard rubber ball the size of a tennis ball. Somehow, the ball slid down her throat. I tried to dislodge it by grabbing and pulling it out, then I tried the Heimlich maneuver. Neither worked. By the time we got Leah to the veterinarian, she was dead. They tried for 25 minutes to revive her.



Dear Abby

Leah was a friendly, funny, loving dog, not yet 2 years old. We miss her terribly. Abby, please tell your readers to never, ever let their dog play with any object that fits into its mouth. If it fits, it can lodge in the throat. I don't want anyone else to experience the pain of losing their dog like we lost ours.

KAREN IN CENTER VALLEY, PA.

DEAR KAREN: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your beloved pet. However, because you wrote to other dog owners, take comfort in the knowledge that you have very likely saved another four-footed family member's life.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My well-meaning mother continues to give me "classics" from her wardrobe that she no longer wears. I'm a size 6 to 8 in my 50s. Mom is in her 80s and wears 12 to 14. Our sense of style is also not the same.

My problem is, after insisting I take these items, she'll often ask for them back several years later. It becomes awkward when I must explain I gave her clothes away. How can I politely stop her from gifting me these items?

NO LONGER HAS THEM

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR NO LONGER HAS THEM: Say, "Mom, these things won't fit me. But I'll be glad to drop them off at a charity thrift shop for you." It's honest, it's practical, and someone can enjoy them.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married three years, and we are both lucky to have families that are kind and supportive. However, there is one recurring issue with his family that I find annoying.

Nobody in my husband's family has a driver's license or owns a car. This includes his two aunts and mother, who all live in the same town we do. As the only driver in the family, I am regularly asked to shuttle relatives to the doctor, the pet groomer, the grocery store, etc.

Abby, none of them have any physical or mental disability that prevents them from driving. We live in a city with a number of cab companies that serve the area. I work hard so I can pay my car insurance bills, my car payments and buy gas to get to where I need to. I'm starting to resent being asked to drive three able-bodied adults who are perfectly capable of driving themselves or taking a taxi.

Am I being inconsiderate? Is there a way to politely convey that I do not wish to play chauffeur?

DRIVEN CRAZY IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR DRIVEN CRAZY: Yes, there is—and because these are his relatives, your husband should be the one to tell them that you have been generous enough and it's time for them to arrange other transportation.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

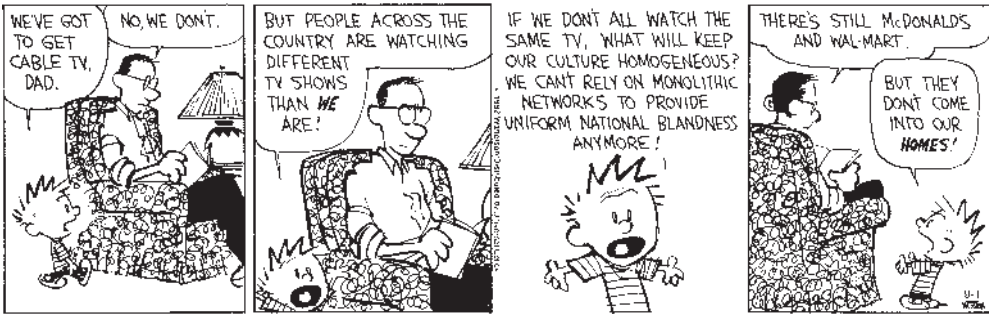
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

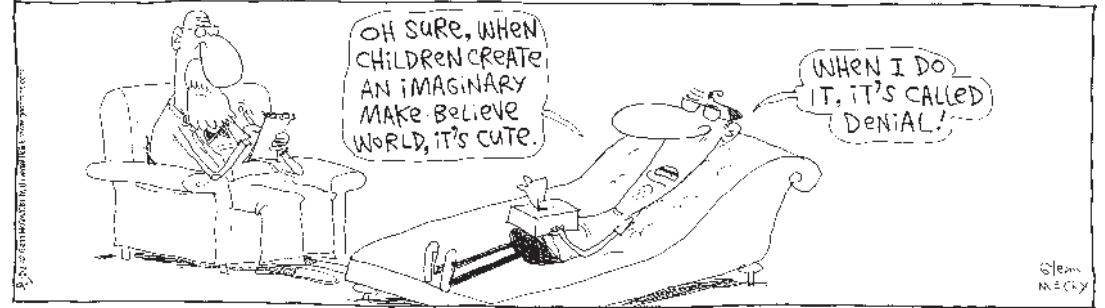
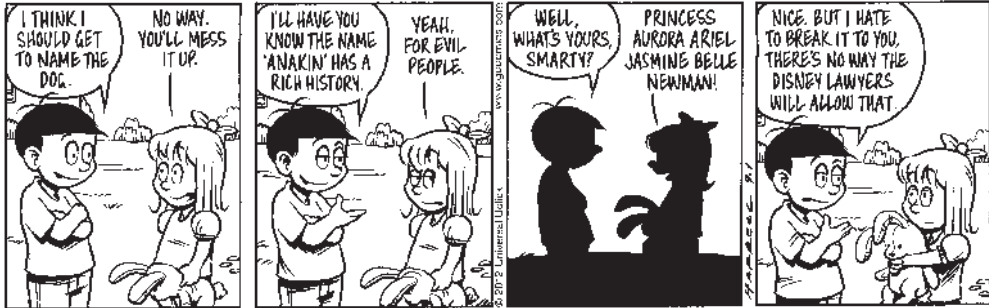


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Pump up the volume
4 Touse
8 Leading man?
12 Shelter
13 Declare openly
14 "— Valentine"
15 Ninny
16 Shake in the grass?
17 Skip over
18 Signal receiver
21 Grazing area
22 Weeding need
23 Moon-related
26 Barbie's companion
27 Pile of chips
30 Press
31 Proof abbr.
32 Suitable
33 Tackle's teammate
34 Curly-tailed dog

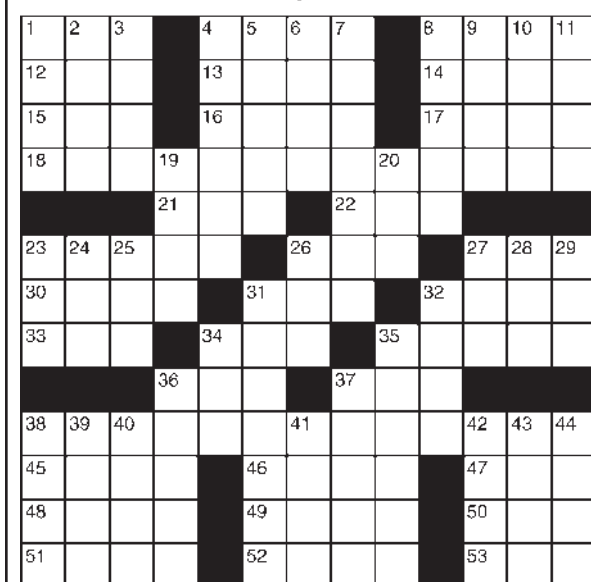
DOWN

1 "Oh, woe!"
2 Arizona city
3 Nuisance
4 "Das Lied von der Erde" composer
5 Palate appendage
6 Performances for one
7 Wrapped
8 Home
9 Ms. Moore
10 Writer
11 Legend
19 Verve
20 A billion years
23 Falsehood
24 Grecian vessel
25 Affirmative action?
26 Frat party need
27 "Great Expectations" lad
28 Indivisible
29 Ball-bearing item
31 Erstwhile
32 At capacity
34 Expert
35 Most mature
36 Juice-box item
37 Heights
38 Reveille's opposite
39 Send out
40 De Pablo of "NCIS"
41 "The Music Man" venue
42 Dogfight participants
43 Forum garb
44 Nervous

Solution time: 27 mins.

H	I	M	O	C	T	M	A	C	A	W
A	D	O	F	L	I	N	A	N	E	
V	A	R	F	I	R	I	N	G	P	I
O	H	O	S	M	I	T	H			
C	O	N	S		A	N	C		S	O
E	G	G	O	N		L	U	X	H	A
T	E	N	P	I	N		L	E	A	
C	L	U	E		A	T	A		K	N
S	A	F	E	T		E	V	A	D	E
I	L	I	A	C		E	D	O	R	T
T	E	E	T	H		D	A	S		E

Yesterday's answer 9-1



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Gloria Estefan, 55; Phil McGraw, 62; Barry Gibb, 66; Lily Tomlin, 73.

Happy Birthday: Too much of anything will work against you. Slow down to avoid heading down a path you know little about. Knowledge will be key when it comes to your success. Research and sticking to your game plan will lead to victory. Don't allow temptation to lead you astray or your ego to interfere. Your numbers are 10, 16, 24, 26, 32, 38, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Do whatever it takes to feel good. A day of pampering or negotiating a new set of rules or a contract that can make a difference to your future way of life will improve your current position or mental health. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A good partnership can make a difference going forward. Take the time to discuss your needs and what you have to give in return. Communication will be key to resolving issues that have been slowing you down. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Control your emotions. You may not like what someone else is doing, but revenge or overreacting will be a waste of time. Instead, separate what you are doing and plug along until you reach your goal. Success is the sweetest revenge. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take a chance when it comes to trying something new or communicating with someone you love in order to make your relationship

better. Putting time and effort into family matters and getting along with others will pay off handsomely. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Embrace change and show everyone how adaptable and diverse you can be. A day trip will allow you to build stronger ties with people sharing your concerns and interests. Take care of personal business and ease your stress. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Discuss problems openly and you will come to a better understanding of what needs to be done to keep everyone happy. Your insight and ability to piece a puzzle together will help you get your way. Love is in the stars. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Listen carefully before making suggestions. Your attentiveness will play a major role in getting others to agree with the way you want things to unfold. A day trip will be entertaining and eye-opening. Secrets will be revealed. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Put more time into pleasing friends, relatives or your lover. Taking care of your own interests and making personal improvements will pay off. Enjoy a social event, or make plans to do something romantic with someone special. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Reserve judgment and be observant instead of taking over. The less said, the better when dealing with anyone capable of putting you in your place. Emotional matters will escalate if you take a defensive position. Listen, but don't respond just yet. **

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Look for any opportunity to enhance your relationship with someone special. The little things you do will win favors in return. A conservative investment will pay high returns if you are willing to let it sit for a while. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't wait any longer. Take responsibility and you can make a difference to the outcome of a situation with a partner, friend or relative. Don't let confusion play a role when asking the right questions is what's required. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Share your thoughts and get together with someone unique, inspirational and instrumental in expanding your own interests. Focus on love and family, and smooth over any difference you have with someone you want to keep in your life. ***

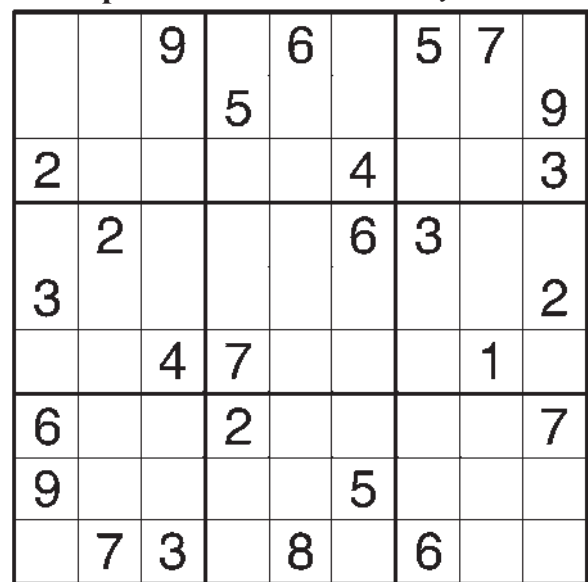
Birthday Baby: You are intuitive, tolerant and progressive. You take control.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



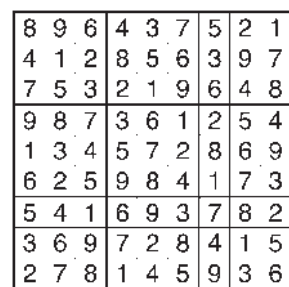
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

9/01

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

9/1

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TV'S 'HAWAII FIVE-O'

Solution: 8 letters



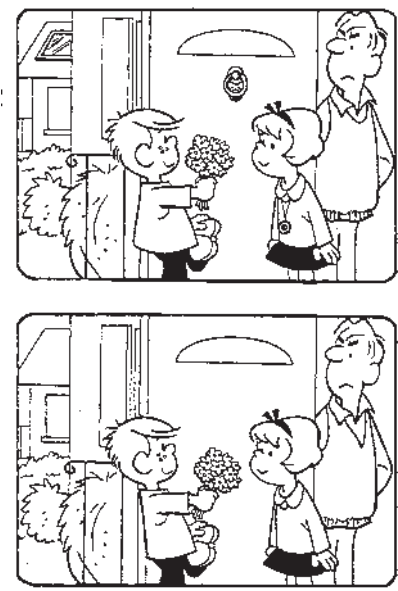
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Action, Alex, Body, Caan, Case, Chin Ho, Cousin, Crime, Daniel Dae Kim, Danno, Danny, Data, Father, Five, Freeman, German, Grace, Hawaii, Headquarters, Hunt, Islands, Kamekona, Kono, Lauren, Lead, Lieutenant, Masi Oka, Mastermind, Max, McGarrett, Medical, Oahu, O'Loughlin, Park, Prison, Rules, Save, Scott, Steve, Tackle, Tourist, Traps, Unit, Yang Yesterday's Answer: Sheriff

The NFL's Fantasy Football game is available on the NFL's website at www.nfl.com/fantasy. The NFL's Fantasy Football game is available on the NFL's website at www.nfl.com/fantasy. The NFL's Fantasy Football game is available on the NFL's website at www.nfl.com/fantasy.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINGOFF



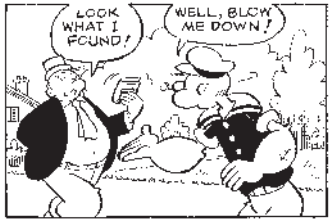
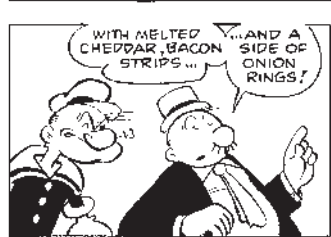
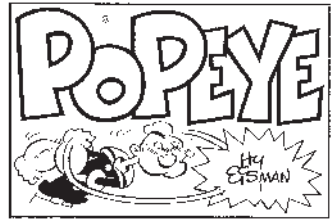
FIND AT LEAST 6 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS.

Wishing Well®

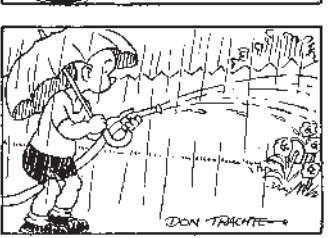
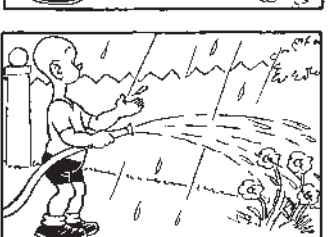
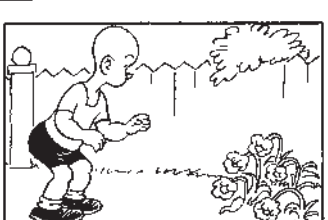
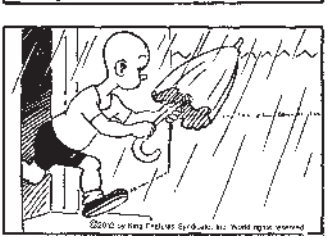
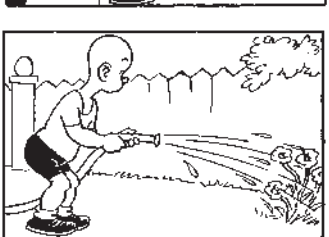
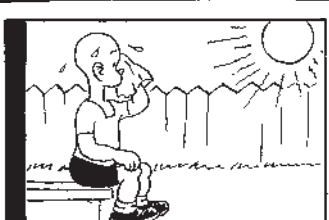
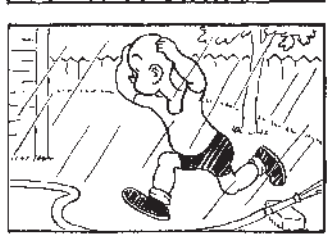
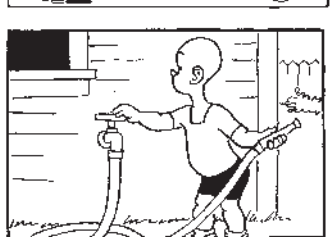
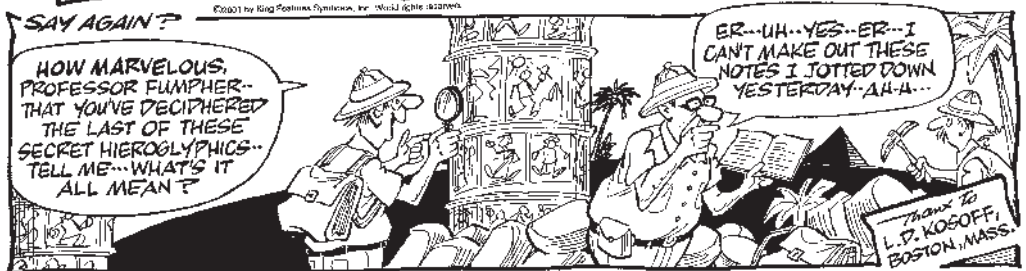
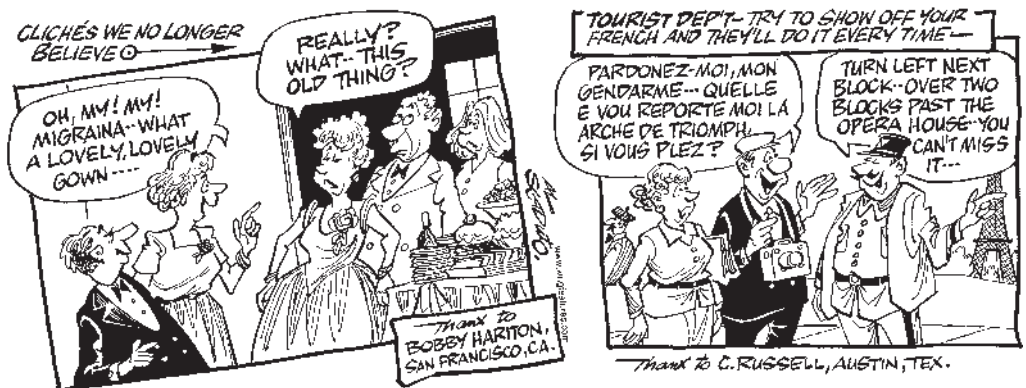
4	7	5	3	5	2	8	5	3	6	3	8	6
D	S	A	N	F	D	D	A	O	K	W	I	N
2	3	8	2	3	8	7	2	4	6	5	8	3
E	C	F	S	O	F	T	I	A	O	S	I	N
5	8	3	2	6	8	6	2	3	2	7	8	6
T	C	T	R	W	U	Y	E	E	S	A	L	O
4	5	4	7	5	8	6	8	4	7	5	2	8
R	S	I	Y	T	T	U	I	N	I	A	F	E
4	7	8	2	4	2	7	4	8	7	3	8	3
G	N	S	U	I	L	T	D	R	O	N	E	T
7	3	6	7	5	6	2	4	8	2	6	4	5
U	E	R	C	R	S	F	E	S	I	E	A	T
6	8	2	7	6	8	2	3	8	2	8	2	8
L	O	L	H	F	L	L	D	V	E	E	D	D

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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They'll Do It Every Time by Al Scaduto



Super Crossword

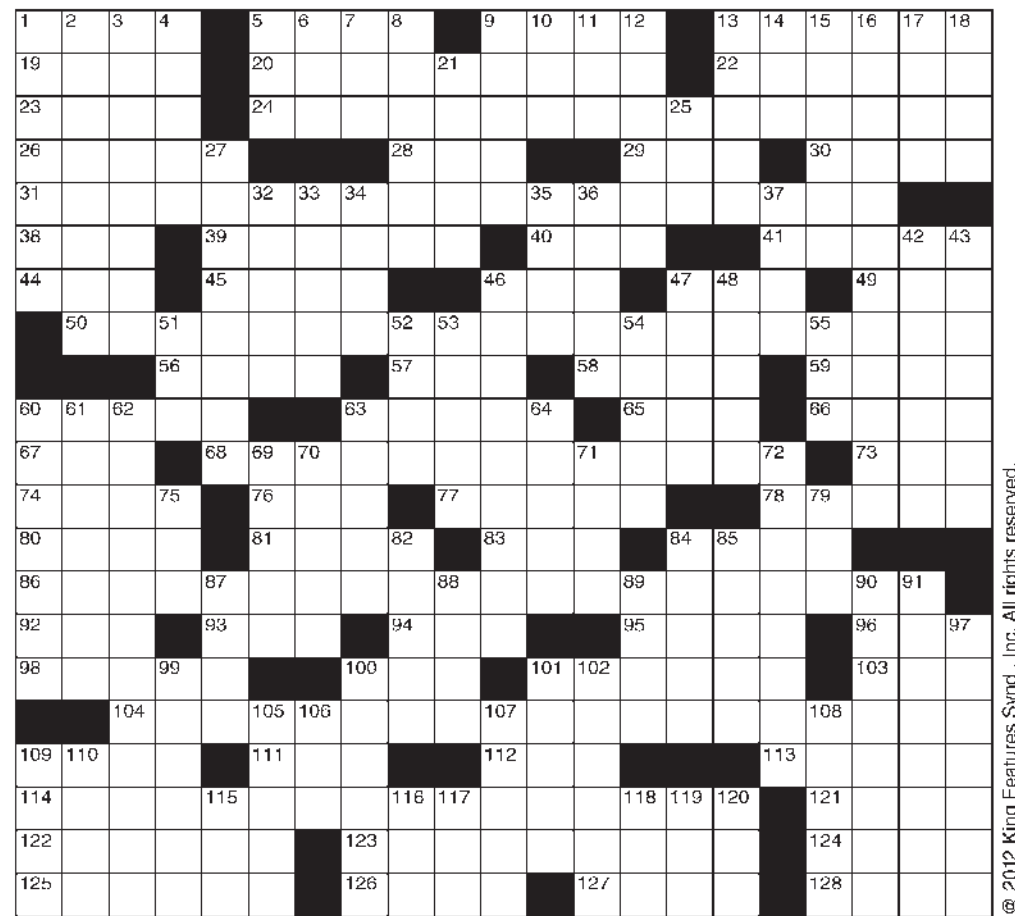
DOUBLING UP ON STAGE

ACROSS

- 1 Snow coaster
5 Lemon or lime drinks
9 Skiers' lift
13 Leaf through rapidly
19 Not yet final, legally
20 Big name in mouthwash
22 Loving sort
23 Business letter abbr.
24 Start of a riddle
26 Gossip blogger
28 It airs "Nova" and "Nature"
29 — de-sac
30 Comes by
31 Riddle, part 2
38 Slip behind
39 Groves
40 GPS display
41 Moral nature of a group
44 Summer, in Nantes
45 Bic — Stic (pen brand)
46 Religious sister
47 Flat — pancake
49 Water, in Nantes
50 Riddle, part 3
56 Morrow and Tayback
57 Parked it, so to speak
58 Planting dirt
59 Bride of Lohengrin
60 "Lay Lady Lay" singer
63 Capital of Maryland, informally
65 Geller of psychic acts
66 Draw in outline
67 Chit letters
68 Riddle, part 4
73 A Bobbsey twin
74 Seeks office
76 With 84-Across, kids' card game
77 According to — (by the rules)
78 Health insurance company
80 Notable times
81 Sonic —
83 Copy a frog
84 See 76-Across
86 Riddle, part 5
92 Shallow pan
93 Kind
94 Belly
95 Fibbing type
96 Rest house
98 Ending for home
100 12 in a yr.
101 Madre or Mist lead-in
103 Language akin to Iowa
104 Riddle, part 6
109 "sow, so shall ..."
111 Author
112 GA neighbor
113 Interminably
114 Riddle's answer
121 Avonlea girl
122 Entertainer
123 Certain resident of Manhattan
124 Lasting mark
125 "v" symbols
126 Gives a new hue to
127 Pine product
128 Golfing pegs

DOWN

- 1 Lipton rival
3 Erudite folks
3 Female hormone
4 Feasted
5 "Thrilla in Manila" fighter
6 "What's the —?" ("Who cares?")
7 Hook shape
8 "— if you've heard this one ..."
9 Plait of hair
10 Baby's wear
11 Year, in Oporto
12 Station porter
13 Singer Lou
14 Chlor- or fluor- suffix
15 Drew a blank
16 Uninhibited
17 Resident of Riga
18 Bow-wielding god
21 Get on a Greyhound, e.g.
25 Brynner of "Anastasia"
27 Squash type
32 Common baby illness
33 "Iliad" and the like
34 "Mary" writer
35 "You can stop trying to wake me!"
36 Supporting sticks
37 Lend an ear
42 Guy rowing
43 Title girl of a Stephen
46 A step below so-so
47 Burning up
48 Not hollow
51 OH neighbor
52 Alexis I, e.g.
53 "America's Most Wanted" host John
54 Bus line, e.g.
55 Ex-Giant Ott
60 Oversees
61 Shout in tag
62 Occasion for the Vietnamese holiday Tet
63 Words before nails or rosos
64 "I've got my eye —!"
69 Amoco rival
70 Drop heavily
71 High peaks
72 Destructive precipitation
75 Bygone fast jet, briefly
79 Dictator Amin
82 One of a pair of biblical nations
84 Fabric that shimmers
85 In pieces
87 Verdi work
88 Thick porridge
89 Mere commoner
90 Savagery
91 Insect head parts
97 People dozing off
99 "Juarez" actor Brian
100 Chopped up
101 Eliot's Manner
102 Tilted type
105 Louise and Fey
106 Very cross
107 Mini-pies
108 Bread that's browned
109 Electrically versatile
110 Mets' former stadium
115 Colony insect
116 Horse feed
117 Legal addendum?
118 Oath answer
119 Guy doll
120 Before



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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. MUSIC: Who composed the opera "Swan Lake"?
2. LANGUAGE: What is the meaning of the Latin phrase "Ars gratia artis"?
3. GEOGRAPHY: The island of Corsica belongs to what country?
4. MYTHOLOGY: What is the name for the three Greek goddesses of vengeance: Alecto, Megaera and Tisiphone?
5. LITERATURE: Who wrote a semi-autobiographical travel book called "Roughing It"?
6. TELEVISION: What detective series featured the theme song

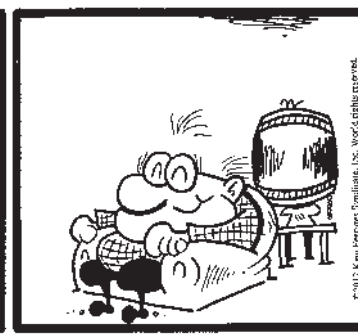
"Keep Your Eye on the Sparrow"?
7. CHEMISTRY: What is the chemical symbol for bromine?
8. AD SLOGANS: What was billed as "The Greatest Show on Earth"?
9. FAMOUS QUOTATIONS: Who once said, "Do not take life too seriously. You will never get out of it alive."?
10. MOVIES: Which Disney movie featured the hit song "A Whole New World"?

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- Answers
1. Peter Tchaikovsky
2. Art for art's sake
3. France
4. The Furies
5. Mark Twain
6. "Barrett"
7. Br
8. Barnum & Bailey Circus
9. Elbert Hubbard
10. "Valentin"

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Hamilton says Armstrong gave him PED

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Tyler Hamilton says Lance Armstrong gave him an illegal blood booster before the 1999 Tour de France and that the teammates took blood transfusions together during the cycling race the following year.

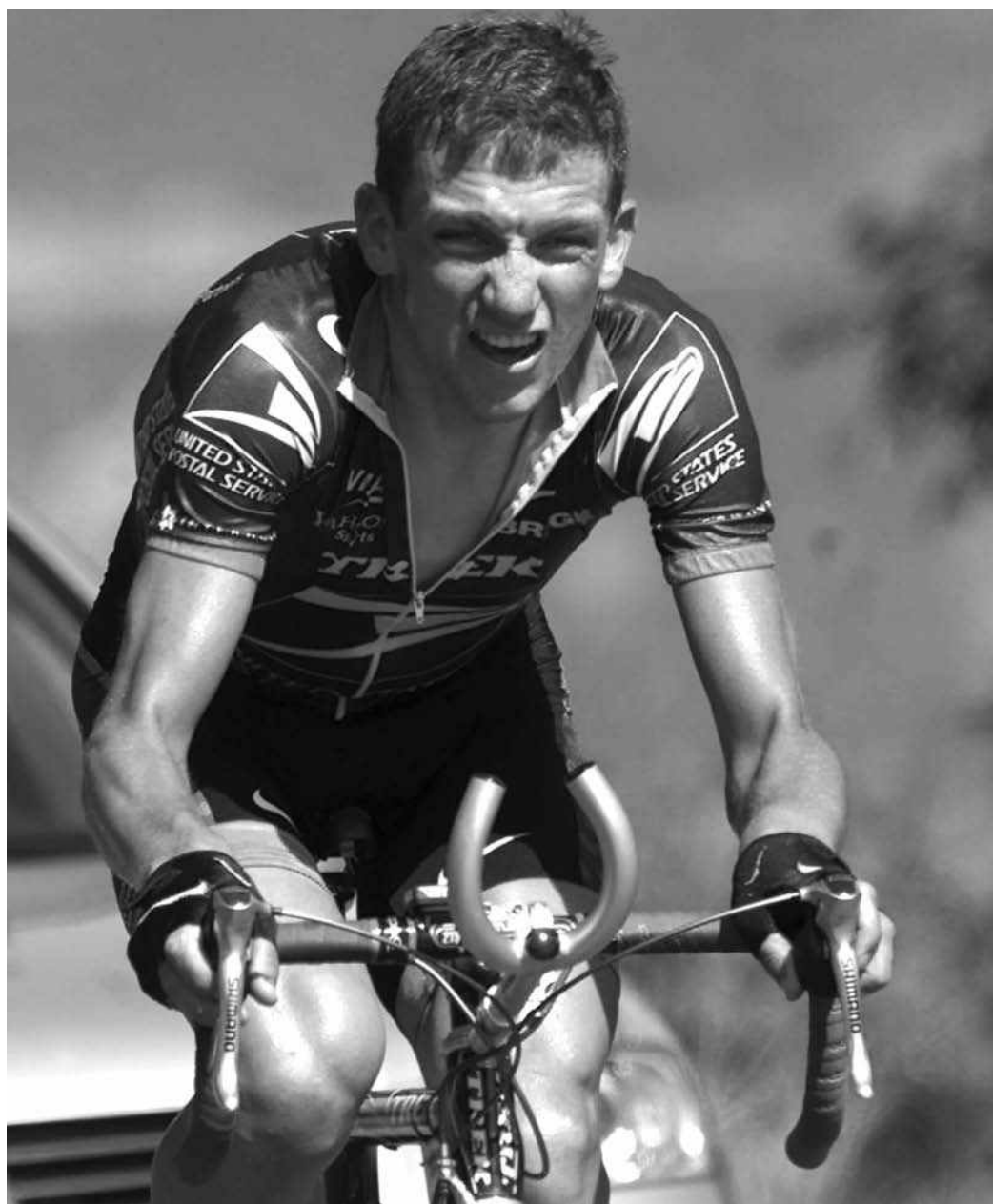
Hamilton makes the allegations in his book, "The Secret Race. Inside the Hidden World of the Tour de France, Doping, Cover-ups and Winning at All Costs," set to be published Sept. 5. The Associated Press purchased a copy Thursday.

Hamilton and Armstrong rode together on the U.S. Postal Service team from 1998 to 2001.

Armstrong has long denied doping but last week chose not to fight drug charges by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency. USADA has erased 14 years of Armstrong's competitive results, including his seven Tour de France titles.

The book covers much of what Hamilton said in a 2011 interview with "60 Minutes" and what he said he told federal criminal investigators looking into doping allegations on the Postal team. Officials closed that investigation in February without bringing any charges against Armstrong.

But Hamilton also provides sharper, personal details of what he says was an alleged doping program encouraged by Armstrong and other team leaders. He describes in detail how he and other cyclists doped and how they avoided getting caught.



In this June 26, 2001 file photo, Tyler Hamilton fights his way up the hill during the 8th stage of the Tour de Suisse, the mountain time trial from Sion to Crans-Montana in Crans-Montana, Switzerland. Hamilton makes allegations in his book, "The Secret Race. Inside the Hidden World of the Tour de France, Doping, Cover-ups and Winning at All Costs," that Lance Armstrong gave him an illegal blood booster at his house before the 1999 Tour de France.

"Lance worked the system ... Lance was the system," Hamilton wrote.

Armstrong's agent Bill Stapleton declined comment when contacted by phone.

Hamilton discusses at length his own descent into performance-enhancing drug use and said the team started even before Armstrong joined in 1998. He and Armstrong soon became roommates and confidants who would discuss using the blood-booster EPO and other PEDs.

"Nobody sets out wanting to dope," Hamilton said.

While visiting Armstrong's home in Nice shortly before the 1999 Tour, Hamilton said he asked him if he had any EPO and Armstrong pointed to the refrigerator. Hamilton took it, thanked Armstrong and remarked to himself how cavalier Armstrong was about simply keeping it in the refrigerator.

Hamilton described a doping plan put in place by the team for the 1999 Tour de France, with Armstrong's knowledge, that included a motorcyclist riding behind racers with a thermos full of EPO. It was to be dispensed to riders in the team camper after race stages.

He said team leaders, doctors and managers encouraged and supervised doping and PEDs were handed out to cyclists in white lunch bags.

Hamilton said he and Armstrong sat near each other to take a blood transfusion after the 11th stage of the 2000 Tour de France, under the watch-

ful eye of team director Johan Bruyneel. That would have been right before the Tour's punishing and famous Ventoux mountain stage.

Bruyneel is also facing doping charges by USADA and a lifetime ban if found guilty of leading what the agency has referred to as a vast doping conspiracy on his teams. Bruyneel has taken his case to arbitration.

Hamilton also renewed his claims that Armstrong told him he tested positive for EPO at the 2001 Tour of Switzerland but was able to get the International Cycling Union to cover it up. The UCI, cycling's governing body, has denied Hamilton's claim.

Armstrong argues that hundreds of negative drug tests prove his claims of innocence. He has previously sought to discredit Hamilton as a drug cheat who was twice banned for doping and was recently stripped of his 2004 Olympic gold medal.

According to USADA, Hamilton is among its key witnesses ready to testify against Armstrong. In all, it said as many as 10 former teammates were ready to do so. The agency has withheld most of their names, saying it feared Armstrong would try to intimidate them.

Hamilton alleged that former Postal rider George Hincapie, a key Armstrong lieutenant during his seven Tour victories, also was given PEDs while he rode for the team along with rider Kevin Livingston.

Angels complete series sweep of Red Sox



ANAHEIM, Calif.

(AP)—Zack Greinke yielded five hits over seven strong innings, Albert Pujols hit an early two-run double and the Los Angeles Angels swept their season series with Boston for the first time with a 5-2 victory over the Red Sox on Thursday night.

Mark Trumbo and pinch-hitter Alberto Callaspo drove in runs in the third inning for the Angels, who stayed in the AL wild-card hunt by winning all six meetings with Boston over the past 10 days.

Los Angeles has won seven of nine overall, keeping pace with Baltimore and Oakland in the five-team wild-card race.

James Loney went 3 for 4 with a homer and Jon Lester threw eight innings of nine-hit ball for the Red Sox, who have lost eight of 11.

Boston had never been swept in a season series of at least six games by any opponent in franchise history.

Mike Trout tied the franchise rookie record by scoring his 103rd run for Los Angeles, which has won eight straight over Boston dating to last season, one victory shy of the Angels' club record against the Red Sox.

Greinke (3-2) was unimimidating but effective in his seventh appearance for the Angels, striking out five and limiting Boston to two runs during his third victory in four starts.

The right-hander might have found his groove in Orange County after a slow start following his arrival from Milwaukee, yielding three runs in 14 2-3 innings over his last two starts.

Kevin Jepsen escaped a jam of his own making in the eighth inning, and Ernesto Frieri pitched the ninth for his 16th save in 18 chances.

Lester (8-11) yielded eight hits and gave a lift to Boston's worn-out bullpen by pitching the entire game, but fell behind 5-1 in the fourth inning. The left-hander's first three-game winning streak of the season ended.

Royals 2, Tigers 1

In Kansas City, this was not the way the Detroit Tigers wanted to head into their next series.

Jeremy Guthrie pitched effectively into the eighth inning and Alex Gordon homered to lead the Kansas City Royals over Detroit, 2-1, for a three-game sweep.

Prince Fielder had three hits for the slumping Tigers, who remained three games behind the first-place Chicago White Sox in the AL Central.

Blue Jays 2, Rays 0

In Toronto, struggling with an illness, Carlos Villanueva felt "terrible." He sure didn't show it on the mound.

Villanueva pitched six sharp innings and the Toronto Blue Jays beat slumping Tampa Bay, 2-0, snapping a five-

game losing streak against the Rays.

Villanueva (7-4) allowed five hits, all singles, to win for the first time since July 27 against Detroit.

Athletics 12, Indians 7

In Cleveland, the only downside for the Oakland Athletics is that they don't play the Cleveland Indians again this season.

Oakland capped a four-game sweep of the free-falling Indians with a 12-7 victory on Thursday. The Athletics, who have won six straight and eight of nine, finish the season series against Cleveland with an 8-2 record. After dropping the first two games in April, Oakland won the final eight versus the Indians.

Mariners 5, Twins 4

In Minneapolis, Blake Beavan gave up two runs in seven innings and Trayvon Robinson drove in two runs to lift Seattle to a 5-4 victory over the Minnesota Twins.

Beavan (9-8) scattered five hits, walked two and struck out one, shrugging off a shaky first inning. Kyle Seager also drove in two runs for the Mariners, who have won 11 of their last 15 games and posted back-to-back winning months for the first time since 2009.

Orioles 5, White Sox 3

In Baltimore, Zach Britton made an ample contribution to the Orioles' pen-

nant drive, striking out a career-high 10 over eight innings in a win over the Chicago White Sox.

Then, as his teammates prepared to take a train to New York for a huge series against the Yankees, Britton packed his bags for a drive to Norfolk, home of Baltimore's Triple-A affiliate. He won't be gone for long.

Britton's stellar pitching performance, along with home runs by Taylor Teagarden and Adam Jones, carried the Orioles to a 5-3 victory.

Diamondbacks, Dodgers 0

In Los Angeles, Ian Kennedy pitched two-hit ball into the seventh inning and Chris Young hit a two-run homer off Clayton Kershaw to help the Arizona Diamondbacks beat the Los Angeles Dodgers, 2-0, snapping a six-game skid.

The Diamondbacks extended their winning streak over the Dodgers to seven in a row in the opener of a four-game series.

Giants 8, Astros 4

In Houston, Ryan Vogelsong had a tough time early in his start. But after using six relievers a night before, San Francisco manager Bruce Bochy was forced to stick with him despite giving up four runs through three innings.

Vogelsong (12-7) bounced back, pitching three scoreless frames before Hunter Pence hit a go-ahead two-run single in the seventh inning and the Giants rallied again for an 8-4 win over the Houston Astros.

Nationals 8, Cardinals 1

In Washington, Edwin Jackson had the St. Louis Cardinals swinging at pitches in the dirt, so often that catcher Jesus Flores ended up with three assists throwing the ball to first after strikeouts.

Jackson fanned 10 in eight stellar innings Thursday night as the Washington Nationals padded their NL East lead with an 8-1 win over the punchless Cardinals.

Cubs 12, Brewers 11

In Chicago, the Cubs haven't had much success against the Brewers this season. With a wild comeback win, Chicago at least got the last laugh against their NL Central rival.

Jonathan Lucroy hit a grand slam and drove in seven runs for Milwaukee, but Alfonso Soriano's RBI single capped a three-run comeback in the ninth inning that lifted the Chicago Cubs over the Brewers, 12-11.

Phillies 3, Mets 2

In Philadelphia, a little popup caused a lot of trouble for the New York Mets - and didn't work out so well for the Philadelphia Phillies, either.

Pitcher Jonathon Niese dropped a routine pop that forced Phillies star Jimmy Rollins to shift from a jog to a sprint toward first base.

Phillies manager Charlie Manuel benched Rollins because of the missing hustle, a move that overshadowed Philadelphia's 3-2 win over the Mets.

Roddick to retire after US Open; Venus loses



NEW YORK

(AP)—At a U.S. Open that will be remembered

for goodbyes by Andy Roddick and Kim Clijsters, another former No. 1 and Grand Slam champion, Venus Williams, left with a spirited second-round loss that felt nothing like a farewell.

Hours after Roddick chose the occasion of his 30th birthday to let the tennis world in on a little secret he'd been keeping—he'll retire after his run at Flushing Meadows ends—Williams served poorly and stumbled badly for a set and a half before recovering to make things quite competitive.

Williams came within two points of winning, but dropped five of the last six games and ended up exiting early at a tournament she's won twice, beaten 6-2, 5-7, 7-5 by sixth-seeded Angelique Kerber of Germany in a nearly 3-hour match that ended at 12:19 a.m. as Thursday turned to Friday.

Asked afterward if she's ready to join Roddick in retirement, Williams replied: "No, because if I could have made two more shots, I probably could have won that match. I think there's a big difference for me because I'm beating myself. I'm not getting destroyed out there. ... If I was out there and people were killing me, maybe it's time to hang it up."

A year ago at the U.S. Open, Williams didn't get the chance to play at all in the second round, withdrawing hours before the match and announcing she had Sjogren's syndrome, an autoimmune disease that can cause fatigue.

This time, buoyed by chants of "Let's go, Venus!" in a mostly empty Arthur Ashe Stadium - perhaps spectators figured in the second set that Kerber was on her way to a swift victory - Williams found the resolve and energy to put aside her 16 double-faults and 60 total unforced errors and help produce as entertaining a contest as the arena has hosted this week.

"I know this is not proper tennis etiquette, but this is the first time I've ever played here that the crowd has been behind me like that. Today I felt American, you know, for the first time at the U.S. Open," Williams said. "So I've waited my whole career to have this moment and here it is."

At changeovers in the third set, trying to concentrate on her coach's game plan, Kerber draped a white towel over her head, looking a bit like a little kid dressing as a ghost for Halloween. She would lift the towel's edge every so often so she could tuck a water bottle underneath and take a sip.

"Venus is such a great player. ...



Andy Roddick returns a shot to Rhyne Williams at the 2012 US Open tennis tournament, Tuesday, Aug. 28, 2012, in New York.

Everybody was against me," Kerber said, referring to the crowd, "but it doesn't matter."

It all came a day after four-time major champion Clijsters, who is 29, played the final singles match of her career, and while the 32-year-old Williams never has uttered a word indicating she's thinking about leaving the sport, she is no longer the player she once was.

"Obviously, being on the losing end of a match like this isn't a lot of fun," Williams said. "Today all I had was fight, because I didn't play well."

In addition to her 2000 and 2001 trophies from the U.S. Open, and five titles from Wimbledon, Williams was the runner-up at major tournaments seven times. In 16 years of Grand Slam action, since her debut in 1997, Williams had never gone through an entire season without making at least one fourth-round appearance at a major.

Until 2012, when she never even made the third round once. She missed the Australian Open while still working her way back onto the tour, then lost in the second round at the French Open and the first round at Wimbledon.

For so long the owner of one of the most feared serves on the women's tour—surpassed only, perhaps, by her younger sister Serena's—Williams took quite a while to get going against Kerber, who was a semifinalist in New York last year. Williams was broken each of the first five times she served and nine times overall.

"It's been a long time; I usually don't have that many breaks," Williams said.

She only hit one ace, more than 1 1/2 hours into the match, in her 10th service game of the evening.

Kerber reeled off six consecutive games in one stretch from the first set to the second, while Williams' mother, Oracene Price, rested her chin on her right hand in the stands. Williams made things interesting, though.

"I was nervous at the end of the second set. I mean, I was a little bit nervous and playing also not so aggressive. I was too defensive," Kerber said.

Then, after Williams led 4-2 in the third set, and was two points away from victory while leading 5-4 as Kerber served, it all came apart again down the stretch for the American.

Usually stoic during matches,

whether winning or losing, Williams was as animated as she gets, raising a clenched fist or yelling "Come on!" after those rare instances when she did control the action—and dropping her head or rolling her eyes or even swiping her racket on the court after missed shots.

Meanwhile, Roddick's impending departure overshadowed some otherwise noteworthy on-court developments Thursday afternoon.

There was the loss by fifth-seeded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, the 2008 Australian Open runner-up, against a man ranked 52nd.

And there was a spate of victories by American men, two who are Roddick's contemporaries and good pals (32-year-old James Blake and 30-year-old Mardy Fish), and two who have been

viewed as possible successors as the best the country has to offer in the sport (19-year-old Jack Sock and 24-year-old Sam Querrey).

"I saw the press conference just before I came out here. I had a feeling, thought it might be, because he's someone who puts heart and soul into every match. It gets tougher as you get older, and I don't think he could keep doing it the same way," said the 115th-ranked Blake, whose 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 upset of No. 24 Marcel Granollers of Spain was stunning for its ease.

No. 23-seeded Fish came back to beat two-time U.S. Open semifinalist Nikolay Davydenko 4-6, 6-7 (4), 6-2, 6-1, 6-2, the tournament-record 10th match in which a man erased a two-set deficit and came all the way back to win.

Panel hears NFLPA bounty appeal, no ruling yet

NEW YORK (AP)—A three-member panel has finished hearing an NFL Players Association appeal challenging Commissioner Roger Goodell's authority over four players punished in the league's bounty investigation of the New Orleans Saints.

The panel consists of retired federal Judge Fern Smith of San Francisco, retired federal Judge Richard Howell of New York, and Georgetown professor James Oldham. The players union wants the panel to overturn a ruling by NFL system arbitrator Stephen Burbank, who concluded that Goodell had the authority to hear and rule on the players' appeals of their suspensions.

NFLPA attorney Jeffrey Kessler, who argued before the panel Thursday, says Burbank's ruling was flawed and that Goodell overstepped his authority. Attorney Gregg Levy offered counter arguments for the NFL.

Panel members say they'll try to issue an opinion next week.

Meanwhile, the NFL has suspended Titans wide receiver Kenny Britt one game after a driving under the influence arrest, his eighth run-in with police since he was drafted in 2009.

Britt said after Tennessee's 10-6 win over the New Orleans Saints on

Thursday night that he would "just take it on the chin" and won't appeal the decision.

The news was first reported by the Tennessean newspaper.

A first-round draft pick in 2009 out of Rutgers, Britt was arrested July 20 for driving under the influence at the Fort Campbell Army post on the Tennessee-Kentucky border. Britt met with NFL officials in New York on Aug. 6, his second visit to the league office in a year.

He was activated from the physically unable to perform list Tuesday after recovering from a left knee injury.

Lakers plan Kareem statue, honors for Shaq, Wilkes



LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles Lakers will unveil a statue of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and retire the jerseys of Shaquille O'Neal and Jamaal Wilkes during the upcoming season.

The Lakers confirmed the long-planned honors Thursday.

The statue of Abdul-Jabbar will be unveiled in Staples Center's Star Plaza on Nov. 16, joining statues of Magic Johnson, Jerry West and broadcaster Chick Hearn. The NBA's career scoring leader won five of his six championship rings during 14 seasons in Los Angeles.

Wilkes' No. 52 jersey will be retired on Dec. 28, and O'Neal's No. 34 jersey will be retired on April 2.

Wilkes spent seven seasons with the Lakers and was elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame earlier this year.

O'Neal spent eight seasons in Los Angeles from 1996-2004, winning three NBA titles.

Meanwhile, New Orlando Magic coach Jacque Vaughn has completed his staff, with the addition of six new assistants.

Vaughn and general manager Rob Hennigan announced Thursday that the team hired James Borrego, Wes Unseld, Jr. and Brett Gunning to

serve as Vaughn's main assistants. Laron Profit and Luke Stuckey will lead player development, and Gordon Chiesa was hired as a special consultant to Vaughn.

Borrego spent the past two seasons as an assistant in New Orleans. Unseld was a Golden State assistant last season after a stint as a Washington assistant. Gunning served several roles with Houston the past four years.

Profit played four seasons in the NBA and Stuckey coached high school basketball in California the last four years.

The Magic open training camp on Oct. 1.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES
MLB STANDINGS
AMERICAN LEAGUE
East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	75	55	.577	—
Baltimore	72	58	.554	3
Tampa Bay	71	60	.542	4½
Boston	62	70	.470	14
Toronto	59	71	.454	16

Central Division

Chicago	72	58	.554	—
Detroit	69	61	.531	3
Kansas City	59	71	.454	13
Cleveland	55	76	.420	17½
Minnesota	53	78	.405	19½

West Division

Texas	77	53	.592	—
Oakland	73	57	.562	4
Los Angeles	69	62	.527	8½
Seattle	64	68	.485	14

NATIONAL LEAGUE
East Division

Washington	79	51	.608	—
Atlanta	74	57	.565	5½
Philadelphia	62	69	.473	17½
New York	61	70	.466	18½
Miami	59	72	.450	20½

Central Division

Cincinnati	80	52	.606	—
St. Louis	71	60	.542	8½
Pittsburgh	70	60	.538	9
Milwaukee	62	68	.477	17
Chicago	50	80	.385	29
Houston	40	91	.305	39½

West Division

San Francisco	74	57	.565	—
Los Angeles	70	62	.530	4½
Arizona	65	67	.492	9½
San Diego	61	71	.462	13½
Colorado	53	76	.411	20

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'THE CRANK'

From Page 24

all of the support I am getting from everyone," Camacho said.

Camacho also sent out thanks to a long list of family members and friends, especially to his dad (Francisco), mom (Marcia) and sister (Leslie).

Notably, "The Crank" has two good friends—George "Loaded" Lockhart (10-4) and Colton Smith (3-1)—also competing in the series.

Lockhart is a former marine and works as a nutritionist for Lloyd Irvin's MMA academy, while Smith has trained along side Camacho in the past.

According to Ultimatefighter.com, many of today's most recognizable MMA fighters, including Rashad Evans, Kenny Florian, Forrest Griffin, and Steven Bonnar, have materialized from the TUF series.

ROTARY

From Page 24

U19 and U15 divisions. The Sonics won the U19 crown after recording a 72-65 victory over Rollers Basketball Club's Fast 12, while Proa claimed the U15 championship after outclassing Docomo Rollers in the winner-take-all finals, 46-40.

Final meeting today

Meanwhile, the 14 teams are requested to send their representatives to the league's final meeting today at 10am at the conference room of the Ada gym.

Topics to be discussed at the meeting include the game schedule for opening night and the regular season, competition fees and ground rules, FIBA officiating and coaching courses; and other upcoming leagues and events.

This year's Rotary caging is sanctioned by Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands.

For more information, contact BAN-MI vice president Elias Rangamar at 235-1775 or email at eli_rang@yahoo.com. (Walter Cepeda Sutherland)

Pacquiao chooses fourth bout with Marquez



LAS VEGAS--Manny Pacquiao has reportedly come to a decision on who and when his next fight will be, as the eight-division champion is said to have chosen a fourth bout with Juan Manuel Marquez to take place on Nov. 10 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Nevada, according to Fight-

news.com and Bleacher Report.

Citing an unnamed source, Fight-News.com said a rematch with current WBO welterweight champ, Timothy Bradley, was not picked due to Pacquiao aiming for a 2013 date with the undefeated Floyd Mayweather Jr..

With the report of Pacquiao (54-4-2, 38 KOs) choosing a fourth battle with

Marquez (54-6-1, 39 KOs) comes some good and bad news.

The bad news is that the boxing fans will see "Pac-Man" fighting Marquez for a fourth time, which is sure to bore most of the general fanbase, as it will be something we have seen over and over again.

The good news is that the reasoning behind Pacquiao's picking Marquez is

because he wants to fight Mayweather next year, according to the report.

I don't see what choosing Marquez over Bradley, or even a rematch with Miguel Cotto has to do with the possibility of a Mayweather showdown in 2013, but if it plays a role in getting the mega fight signed, then watching a fight the world has seen three times before won't be so bad.

IT&E Voyagers, Eight It! lead in SBA Budweiser 8-Ball

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



SOS Bar & Grill's IT&E Voyagers and the Waterfront's Eight It! are the current leaders in Saipan Billiards Association's 2012 Budweiser Open 8-Ball League.

The IT&E Voyagers defeated Poseidon Bar & Grill's Crazy 8 (34-56) on the road, 10-5, to improve to a 57-33 record and take the solo lead in the Tuesday division. The Voyagers hold a two-game edge over Utopia Sports Bar's Blue Ice Hustlers (55-35), who grinded out an 8-7 road victory over Joe's Steakhouse's Docomo Pacific Home Boyz (53-37).

In other results, Oceanside Bar & Grill's IT&E Incridibles (53-37) bested Bammy's Restaurant & Bar's Triggers (44-46), 10-5, also on the road, while Poseidon's Yuichiro's Printing (35-55) went into the 19th Hole Bar and downed Titans I (29-61), 8-7.

In the Thursday division, Eight It! toppled the 19th Hole Eagles (33-57) on the road, 9-6, to stretch its lead to four. Eight It! now has a 56-34 slate.

Meanwhile, 19th Hole's Titans II (52-38) cut through Jonny's Bar & Grill's Team SCS (38-52), 11-4, on the road and shot into second place, just



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The IT&E Voyagers, pictured in this recent file photo, bested Poseidon Bar & Grill's Crazy 8 on the road, 10-5, to remain at the helm of the SBA's Tuesday league.

one game ahead of Bammy's Equalizers (51-39), who bowed at home to Wild Bill's Bar & Grill's Shark Attack (40-50), 6-9.

Action in the 8-ball league con-

tinues this Tuesday with Yuichiro's hosting Crazy 8, the IT&E Incridibles hailing Titans I, the Blue Ice Hustlers prepping for the Triggers, and the IT&E Voyagers calling over

the Docomo Home Boyz.

Thursday's division matchups will have the Eagles meeting the Titans II, Shark Attack hosting Team SCS, and Eight It! dueling the Equalizers.

ARMSTRONG'S

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look like little more than a speed bump.

The physical strength he showed that July 13 at the 2000 Tour was mind-boggling. And there were so many other equally mind-boggling moments in the other six Tours he won.

I was there for some of them. The power of Armstrong on the bike, the mix of steely charm and cold, single-minded determination, was like nothing I'd ever seen - both then and since.

Which is why it's even more mind-boggling to think that none of this really happened. Gone. Expunged. Erased by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency and its finding that the bulk of his career was built on lies and banned performance-enhancing drugs.

The utter destruction of the Lance Armstrong myth, the man seemingly so tough that he not only beat cancer but won the world's toughest bike race a record seven times, is going to take quite some time to digest.

Other commentators will talk about how this will affect the cancer survivors Armstrong inspired and the foundation he set up to fight the disease. And only the most cynical will say that that side of Armstrong should crumble along with his status as a sporting icon.

They will examine how the fall of the only rider who held a candle to Eddy Merckx as cycling's biggest ever star

will affect the sport and the Tour and whether the yellow jerseys Armstrong took back to his Texas home should go to other competitors.

The answer there should be 'non.' Let the titles remain vacant - a black hole in the record books for the black hole in the 1990's and 2000's that many riders, presumably now including Armstrong, stared into—realizing that the only way they were going to succeed in the drug-addled sport was by pricking themselves with syringes of EPO or swallowing drops of hormones like so many others.

Yes, they were cheats. But there were many victims of the doping culture, too, seemingly including Armstrong, who burned so badly to be more than simply an athletic young kid from a broken home in Plano, Texas.

There will be discussion about the fairness of the process that led USADA to ban Armstrong for life and strip him of nearly everything he won. Some will argue that Armstrong simply tried to protect what's left of his name and reputation by turning his back on USADA, portraying himself as the victim of what he says is its witch hunt.

And they are already saying that we shouldn't have allowed ourselves to be sucked in by Armstrong in the first place, because sporting performances which look too good to be true probably are.

That is grossly unfair to all those ath-

letes who don't dope. And that horrid cynicism kills not only our pleasure in watching sport but the very idea that people can do mind-boggling things.

They can. According to USADA, Armstrong no longer can be said to have won the Tour seven straight times. But we should all fight tooth and nail for the ambition that perhaps one day, someone could and that they could do it clean. Otherwise, why get out of bed in the morning?

Now on holiday in some of the same parts of southern France from where I reported on the Tour, I ask myself where did we go wrong? And did we go wrong?

I remember a journalist once asking Armstrong about the color of his socks and I think, "Should we have asked tougher questions?"

In light of what USADA dug up, yes. But the doping questions were asked over and over and his answers were invariably the same: I train hard, have nothing to hide and how mad would I have to be to pump drugs into a body that barely survived late-stage cancer?

In hindsight, the notion of Armstrong apparently risking his health with doping is one of the most mind-boggling aspects of USADA's findings.

And during the years he was winning, we were told Armstrong's drug tests kept coming back negative. Until the evidence started to mount, it was hard to argue otherwise.

There were the those, the courageous

and enterprising ones, who dug as deep as possible into the growing suspicions that Armstrong wasn't being completely straight, and a few others who faced his wrath by speaking out.

But the truth is also that witnesses of Armstrong's apparent cheating didn't come forward in the same numbers and with the same weight that USADA says they have now.

In short, what we had was Armstrong, with his incredible tale of survival performing incredible feats on a bicycle.

It was good while it lasted. That ride on the Ventoux. The day in the Pyrenees when he snagged his handlebar on a spectator's bag, fell, picked himself up and rode with fury. On and on. One memory after another.

But it all means absolutely nothing now.

Gone. Didn't happen.

Mind-boggling.

9 TEAMS

From Page 24

won the inaugural season MVP and he also made it to the Mythical Five, joining teammate Kelvin Fitial, Armathech's Elmer Esdrelon and Junar Guiab, and the Sparks' Tom Santos.

For more information about this year's Emon Lodge caging, contact Edwin Arenas at 287-2985, Rex Yabut at 989-1187, and Rick Alejandro at 789-2074.



Hamilton says
Armstrong gave
him PED

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

'The Crank' to compete in The Ultimate Fighter

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

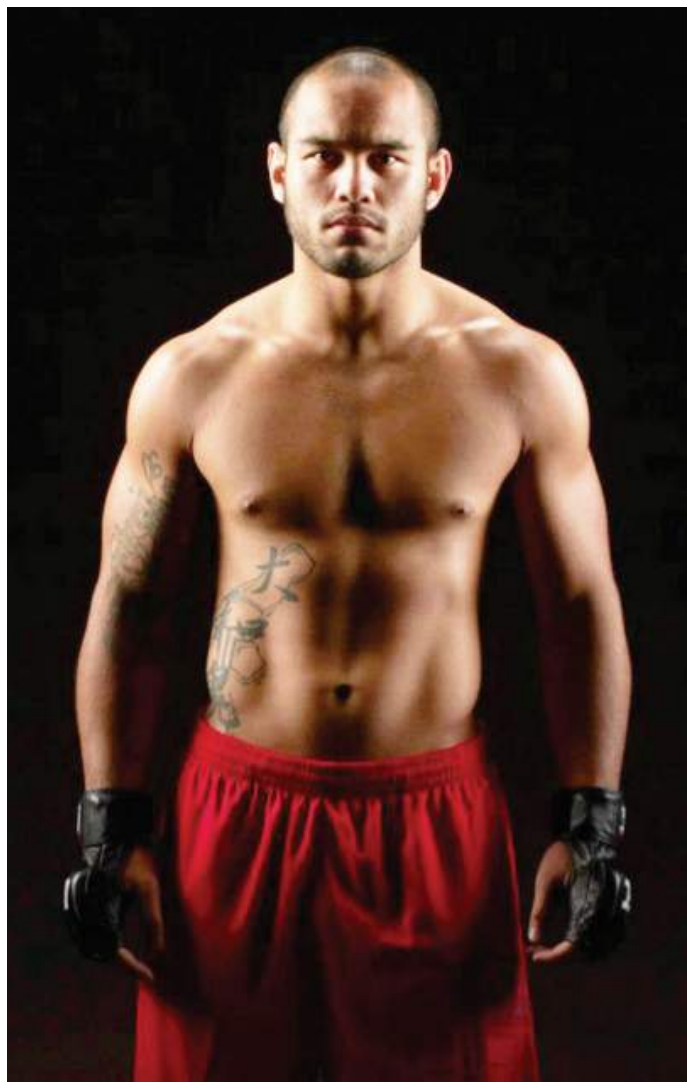
Saipan's Frank "The Crank" Camacho will be one of 32 Mixed Martial Artists featured in The Ultimate Fighter (TUF) Fridays 16 reality television series.

The series' special 2-hour premier will air on cable's FX channel on Sept. 14 at 9pm ET/PT.

The show will run for 13 consecutive weeks on Fridays at 10pm ET/PT.

The winner will be announced in a live telecast on Dec. 15 in Las Vegas and will receive a six-figure contract with the Ultimate Fighter Championship organization.

The premier features 16 elimination bouts and will have 29 Americans, two Canadians and one Brazilian, ranging from ages 22 to 34, competing for the top prize.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Frank "The Crank" Camacho will be competing in the The Ultimate Fighter (TUF) Fridays 16 reality television series.

Fighters will be divided into two teams, which will be coached by former UFC heavyweight champion Shane Carwin and top contender Roy Nelson. The pair will then be pitted against each other in the season finale.

Camacho and the other 31 finalists were selected from a pool of over 60 invited fighters.

"The Crank" claims a MMA record of 13 wins with two losses and fights under Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Master Lloyd Irvin at his MMA Academy located in Camp Springs, Maryland. Sherdog.com, however, lists Camacho's record at 10-2.

In an email to Saipan Tribune yesterday, Camacho said he is excited about the opportunity and is dedicating his stint in the TUF series to the people of the Marianas.

"The culture and people of Saipan, Guam, Tinian, and Luta are all a part of this journey that I am on so don't think I'm alone on this one, win, lose, or draw I'm going out there to be the best representative of our islands. Plain and simple 'home' is what drives me and I am so thankful for

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WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The Sonics' Ezra Caro goes for a reverse layup against the Ol'Aces Juan Maratita during their game in last year's Rotary caging at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex.

Rotary youth league draws 14 teams

Fourteen teams will be competing in the 21st Annual Rotary Club of Saipan Youth Basketball League that will kick off this Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The 2012 season of the youth caging will have eight squads in the U16 division and six in the U20 age group. Teams vying for the U16 title include the Sonics, the Rollers Basketball Club, Hi-5, the Ol'Aces, the Rotary Club of Saipan Youth G-Hammers, Proa, and the Basketball League that will have two groups representing Kagman and Koblerville.



The U20 division will feature two Proa teams, two RBC Rollers groups, Hi-5, and a band from Kagman.

Last year's Rotary caging featured competition in the

See **ROTARY** on **Page 23**

9 teams entered in Emon Lodge caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Emon Lodge 179 Basketball League returns this month with nine teams battling for the 2012 season championship.

After taking a hiatus last year, the Emon Lodge caging will open its second season on Sept. 9 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands-affiliated league so far has lured nine teams: the Sonics, Archers, Servitek Auto Paint Shop, Fong's Bakery, Armatech, Hip-Hop, Thunder, Ashleys, and Pacific Islands Club.

Representatives of registered and interested teams are requested to attend a final meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 4, at 6:30pm at the pavilion inside the Oleai Sports Complex. The league's ground rules, updated FIBA rules, details about the opening and criteria for best muse and best uniform contests will be discussed at the meeting. The \$400 entrance fee payable to MDX Sports Association and copy of team roster are also due at the final meeting. Each



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Armatech's Peter Mendiola, right, pulls up for a corner jumper against Mobil's Marvin Rabauliman during their title game in the inaugural Emon Lodge caging in 2010 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

team is allowed a maximum of 12 players.

Games will be played three times a week or every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at the Ada gym. Two matches are scheduled on weekdays with the first one set for 6:30pm and the second at 8pm. Three games will be played every Saturday with the first match kicking off at 4pm, the second at 5:30pm, and the last at 7pm.

For the Sunday opening, ceremonies will start at 9am and organizers are planning to have all teams play in the kick-off day. League coordinators are also hoping to draw one more squad before next week's opening to have five games at the start of the 2012 season.

The Emon Lodge caging had its inaugural season in 2010 with nine teams playing in the league. The list included eventual champion Mobil, Armatech, Oches, Marianas Wireless, MBI-Right Guard, Wings Travel, Tropical Laundry, Marianas Resort, and the Sparks.

Mobil took the championship after beating Armatech in the winner-take-all finale, 93-80. Mobil's main man Jun Estolas

See **9 TEAMS** on **Page 23**

Armstrong's fall is mind-boggling

On the hot road to this village in the deepest south of France, we passed the forbidding, barren mountain where Lance Armstrong, the cyclist, took a giant step toward becoming Lance Armstrong, the sporting myth.

It was 12 years ago this summer. Riding hard, Armstrong fiddled with the collar of his bright yellow Tour de France leader's jersey and tugged its back, getting comfortable in the saddle for one of his trademark attacks.

Then, a few minutes later, he was off, literally like a rocket, leaving rivals for dead and making the towering Mont Ventoux



By **JOHN LEICESTER**
AP Sports Columnist

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